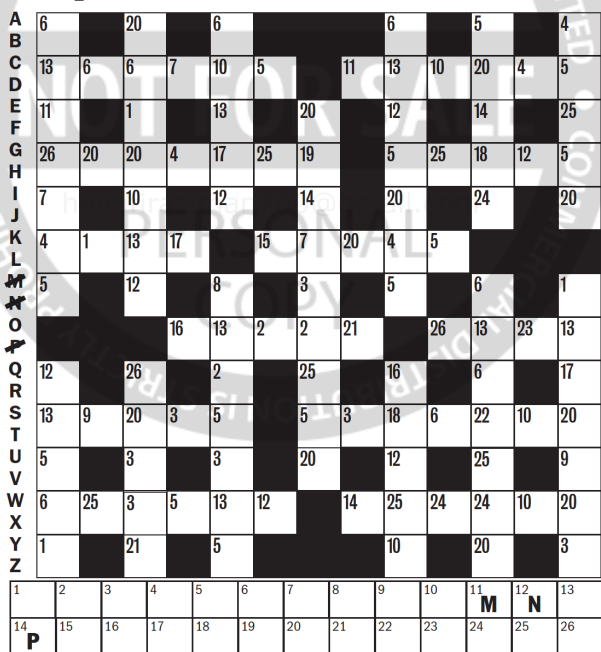


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Alphapuzzle™ tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow.

DIFFICULTY: 7/10 **TARGET:** 24 minutes
CLUE: Titillate river for a stream

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: Across:

Default, Wrack, Stool, Earache, Badlands, Suet, Nerves, Zealot, Made, Carapace, Racquet, Rabid, Holly, Compere.

Down: Dustbin, March, Fjord, Radical, Unleaded, Fury, Trendy, Mastic, Wary, Hexagram, Accrual, Amble (clue), Knelt, Treadle.

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0905 072 3264
(Hear up to six extra letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard)

● Alternatively, text DSALPHA to 83426 and we will text the six extra letter clues direct to your mobile.

● Texts cost £1 plus normal network operator rate.

FULL SOLUTION: 0905 072 3265

● Calls cost 75p per minute from BT landlines

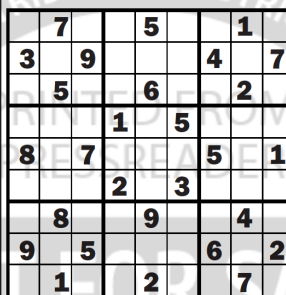
The Write Stuff

This is a puzzle that will let you exercise your grey matter and play with words. There's need for a novel approach to the puzzle – and just a little application as usual. There is a warning however – one item has been erased from the grid and can't be found. Which one?

L Y R I C S S A W O K M E N T
E T A L P E M A N C A D O Y P
A E M S S E R D D A H V R S I
A E X E S N R N S Y E E O A R
G R B E I E U U H L T E Q E C
R M T N R M C P T T G S W U S
E C G I B C A I E A P S X M E
F S I E C R I L S Y N A R V A
E U R S G L N S P A E G L E Y
R C L O U R E O E L A S I R R
E I I N P M C R T P T L K S O
N B A P P L I C A T I O N E T
C S M A X E A M E M O G N O S
E M E O P I C G G B P A P E R
O R Y M U S I P Y I N N U R A

ADDRESS **MESSAGE**
ANSWER **MUSIC**
APPLICATION **NAMEPLATE**
ARTICLE **NOVEL**
BIOGRAPHY **NUMBER**
BOOK **PAPER**
CARD **PLAY**
CHEQUE **POEM**
COPY **REFERENCE**
ELEGY **SCRIPT**
E-MAIL **SIGNATURE**
ESSAY **SLOGAN**
EXAM **SONG**
EXERCISE **STORY**
LETTER **VERSE**
LYRICS **WARNING**
MEMO

SUDOKU



Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine.
Level: Moderate
Target: 26 mins

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

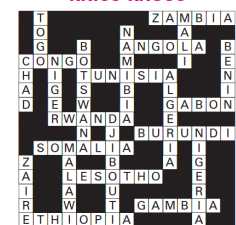
4	6	8	9	2	1	7	5	3
7	3	1	4	6	5	9	2	8
2	9	5	8	3	7	4	1	6
6	7	3	5	1	8	2	9	4
8	1	9	6	4	2	5	3	7
5	4	2	3	7	9	8	6	1
3	2	6	7	9	4	1	8	5
1	8	7	2	5	3	6	4	9
9	5	4	1	8	6	3	7	2

Extra clues: 0905 072 0302 Today's solution: 0905 072 0301

Calls cost 75p/min from a BT landline

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

KRISS KROSS



SOLUTIONS IN TOMORROW'S

Two-way Teaser

Call 0905 072 3267 for today's solution.
Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline.

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Grounds in this have provided drink (6,3)
 - 7 We'd no new order to give permanent income (5)
 - 9 Waggish variation that gives pilot a turn? (4,4)
 - 11 In the morning donkey has to accumulate (5)
 - 12 He delivers job to fellow (7)
 - 14 Sort of club giving great delight (4)
 - 15 Excluded tout will lose his head (3)
 - 17 A couple in it won't! (3)
 - 18 Pay about pound to see stage production (4)
 - 20 Good translations are, till changed (7)
 - 23 Shout to make others happier (5)
 - 24 Arts once developed by forefather (8)
 - 26 The flat emptied of contents is victim of it (5)

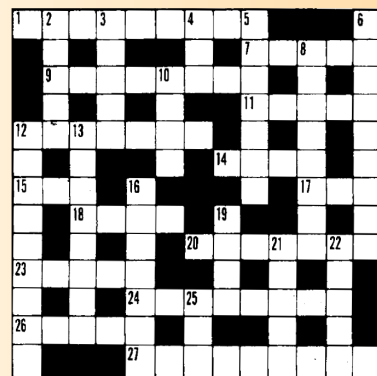
- 27 Attractive end on hanging jewel, we are told (9)
- 28 DOWN
- 2 Eliminated party has to do better than others (5)
- 3 It was hard to make a tool from (5)
- 4 Young animal can go in either direction (3)
- 5 Number with skill that can be held (7)
- 6 Form of alpine descent that takes the cake? (5,4)
- 8 Middle line for team ride in formation (8)
- 10 Country mansion MP must hold on to! (4)
- 12 Ordinary language, clever for what D.A.s do (9)
- 13 Corner, for example, fixed part (3,5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION - ACROSS: 1 Resumes, 5 Risks, 8 Ill, 9 Statuette, 10 Smite, 11 Element, 13 Errors, 14 Sample, 19 Panache, 19 Bends, 21 In a moment, 23 Ire, 24 Solid, 25 Torment. **DOWN:** 1 Raids, 2 Soldier On, 3 Masseur, 4 Stayer, 5 Route, 6 Set, 7 Sceptre, 12 Expensive, 13 Empties, 15 Arbitr, 16 Decent, 18 Crowd, 20 Sheet, 22 All.

- 16 Ran over with speed in recount (7)
 - 19 Piece, table or keeper (4)
 - 21 Go in and stick pole in rotten tree (5)
 - 22 One with public relations on part of runaway (5)
 - 25 Bit of a decadent scoundrel (3)
- QUICK CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- 1 Container for hot drink (6,3)
 - 7 To provide (5)
 - 9 Descent of an aircraft in a steep spiral (4,4)
 - 11 Accumulate (5)
 - 12 Post Office employee (7)
 - 14 Mirth (4)
 - 15 Not at home (3)
 - 17 A couple (3)

- 18 A theatre production (4)
 - 20 Word for word (7)
 - 23 Shout of encouragement (5)
 - 24 Forefather (8)
 - 26 Burglary (5)
 - 27 Arousing affection (9)
- DOWN**
- 2 Surpass (5)
 - 3 Form of quartz (5)
 - 4 Young dog (3)
 - 5 Able to be maintained (7)
 - 6 Sponge with jam filling (5,4)
 - 8 Length across centre of circle (8)
 - 10 Chair (4)
 - 12 To bring a criminal action against (9)
 - 13 Rehearsed football move (3,5)
 - 16 Relate (7)
 - 19 Instance or occasion (4)
 - 21 Take part in competition (5)
 - 22 Kind of stage (5)
 - 25 Bounder (3)

Two sets of clues, but the answers are the same
ANSWERS TOMORROW



The Daily Star Crossword Books Vols 2 - 12, The Puzzler Books of Crosswords Vols 1-4 and The Puzzler Books of Puzzles Vols 2, 3 and 4 are all currently available at £3.99 each. Please send a cheque or postal order made payable to The Daily Star Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ or telephone 0871 434 6095 with your credit card details. Please allow 14 days for delivery. Postage in the UK is free.

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to **10.7% APR** variable

Typical
8.4% APR variable

8.4% APR

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	Monthly	TAP†	Monthly	TAP†
£10,000	£96.35	£17,343	£78.08	£23,425
£30,000	£289.06	£52,030	£234.25	£70,276
£50,000	£481.76	£86,717	£390.42	£117,127
£75,000	£722.64	£130,075	£585.64	£175,691

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£5,000	4 years	12.9%	£6,342.72
£500	3 years	14.9%	£181.58

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It's the business

'The silliest woman can manage a clever man; but it needs a very clever woman to manage a fool' – Rudyard Kipling

Movers & groovers

RYANAIR will today carry out its threat to slash services between Stansted and Newquay in protest at Cornwall County Council's £5 surcharge to pay for airport expansion.

It is withdrawing some 12 flights a week, down to 16, which it claims will mean the loss of around 100,000 passengers a year.

Airline deputy chief Michael Cawley said: "Taxing tourists is not the way to promote visitors to come to Cornwall, particularly during the difficult winter months."

THE Safeway supermarket banner will disappear from Britain today as **Morrisons** completes its store conversion programme.

It has converted 219 Safeway shops, taking the Morrisons estate to over 360. But with five profits warnings since he bought Safeway last year, the success of Sir Ken Morrison's deal remains debatable.

PHILIP Graf, former chief executive of newspaper publisher **Trinity Mirror**, has turned gamekeeper by becoming the deputy chairman at media regulator **Ofcom**.

Graf, who left Trinity three years ago to be replaced by Sly Bailey, has filled his time reviewing the BBC's online activities.

ENGINEERING firm **GKN** says Ian Griffiths, head of its automotive division, will leave in January. His new job is under wraps but GKN said he had taken on the post of managing director of "a major UK based business".

THE DEALER

HOT GOSSIP

COOKSON'S market revival gathered momentum on renewed talk of a takeover. The industrial materials company's shares firmed 15.25p to 380.25p on rumours that a predator was mulling a 500p-a-share approach. Cookson has seen its market value rise 20% over the past month.

Rental market still strong

SPECULATORS have deserted the buy-to-let market leaving it to professional landlords and serious investors, says specialist mortgage lender **Paragon**. The past year had seen fewer buyers hoping to "make a quick turn" in the market, said chief executive Nigel Terrington. While the general mortgage

market had seen a mixed picture following interest rate rises, the buy-to-let market had seen sustained demand, he said. Our landlords remain optimistic. There is an increase in tenant demand and prospects of lower interest rates," said Terrington. The group saw the value of

its buy-to-let portfolio rise from £4 billion to £5bn in the year to the end of September. But it suffered weaker demand for consumer finance as car loans and store credit were hit by higher interest rates. Annual pre-tax profits rose from £71 million to £76.8m.

FAIR SHARES

UK blue chip gains were overshadowed by medium-sized firms as bid rumours swirled around **EMI** and **Cookson**. The FTSE 250 climbed 58.8 points to 8304.6 while the FTSE 100 rose 15.5 to 5532.7, a four-year high which helped boost the performance of major insurance companies.

Rush for Xbox

CURRYS WARNS OF XMAS SHORTAGES

MICROSOFT'S new **XBox 360**, **Apple's iPod** and the **Sony PSP** console will be in short supply this Christmas, the firm behind **Currys** warned last night.

DSG International warned of huge demand for the gadgets, expected to be this year's must-haves. But the Dixons and Currys electrical goods retailer said it expected to hammer its competitors in what will be a tough Christmas.

Chief exec John Clare said the group's stores, which also operate under the **PC World** and **The Link** banners, were well-prepared for the crucial festive period, with strong ranges and good deals. "We have held our own or better in our markets and I see no reason we shouldn't be able to do that over Christmas," he boasted.

Bargains

Shoppers should find plenty of bargains as deflation in the electrical goods market continues.

Computers are about 16% cheaper than last year while the cost of Sat Nav gear has tumbled. DSG, which is Britain's biggest electrical goods retailer, makes 40% of its sales and 60% of its profits over the eight-week Christmas trading period.

It reported a further fall in sales at Currys, Dixons, PC World and The Link yesterday as the slowdown on the high street took its toll.

Clare said while there had been no significant deterioration in UK trad-

by **BILL MARTIN**

ing there was "no clear indication yet of any recovery" in its markets.

A strong performance from DSG's international stores pushed group sales up 4% in the first half.

But Currys has been hit by a downturn in fridges, ovens and washing machines sales.

Consumers have been cutting back on buying major appliances to fund higher mortgage, utility and petrol bills.

Sales at Dixons slipped 2% as strong demand for flat screen TVs and MP3 players was offset by a tough time for older technology markets such as personal stereos.

The weakest area in Dixons' UK business was The Link, where same-store sales crashed 28% amid competition in the mobile phone sector.

O2's takeover by Spain's **Telefonica** has heightened speculation DSG will sell its stake.

news@dailystar.co.uk



The growth of the "grab and go" lunching culture is one reason why the **Restaurant Group** decided to sell its **Caffe Uno** pizza and pasta chain in a £33million deal.

Managing director **Andrew Page** said the lack of people sitting down to lunch in favour of a sarnie had sparked the sale to **Chez Gerard** and **Bertorelli** owner **Paramount** yesterday. He explained: "It

was very difficult to see where long-term growth was going to be generated."

Paramount's chief executive **Nick Basing** said the deal would transform his group by more than doubling its size to 77 restaurants.

He said: "It takes us out of our traditional heartland in London and the South East."

Higher prices get Drax fired-up

EUROPE'S largest coal-fired power station, **Drax**, will take advantage of Britain's soaring power prices with a £1.7 billion flotation next month.

The company, whose plant generates 7% of Britain's electricity needs, opted for a flotation yesterday after rejecting a bid approach from a US consortium.

Its market value will put it firmly in the FTSE-250 and allow its management and staff to share a £136m share windfall.

Cheap

Rescued from financial collapse by its creditors only three years ago, **Drax** is now benefiting from the scarcity of North Sea oil and gas, which has made retail energy prices higher.

This has meant coal, once out of favour as expensive and polluting, is now relatively cheap.

However, analysts warn its profits would be severely dented by any future falls in the price of oil and gas.

Analysts at **Morgan Stanley** predict that if the oil price remains around \$60 a barrel, **Drax** would be worth £415bn but if it drops to \$35 the value would be only £1.14bn.

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 14.50 point (0.26%) at 5531.70

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low				
3i Grp	867	+20	868	875	1470	Centrica	237c	-1	264	217	1818	Land Secs	1596	+20	1599	1235	1039	Ryl Dutch Shell 'A'	1846kd	-3	1875	1644	6690
A.B. Food	840c	+10	863	726	1082	Compass Group	204c	-	264	175	7663	Legal&Gen	114c	-	119	102c	1036	Ryl Dutch Shell 'B'	1939kd	+4	1959	1727	6918
Alliance & Leic	904c	+4	947	814	2233	Daily Mail	657c	+1	764	617	3973	Lib-tel	1002	+2	1025	865c	7649	SAB	1052	+18	1100	774	4791
Alliance Unicom	774	+10	875	712	6022	Diageo	849	+4c	862c	721	1029	Lloyds Tsb Grp	479c	+1c	509	415	6395	Sage Grp	253c	+2c	230c	184	6601
AMVESCO	392c	+5	432c	299c	1124	DSG Int'l	152	+1c	167c	138c	1020	Man Group	1834kd	+22c	1835	1162	7896	Sainsbury's	280kd	+1c	302	257c	1050
Anglo	1851	+19	1853	1130	4949	Ent Inns	883	-6	889	637c	4713	Markes & Sp	455kd	+2c	458	319c	1039	Schroders	904c	+6	947c	675c	1415
Antofagasta	1960	-24	1701	1052	4338	Exel	1221	+1	1235	711c	1366	Morrison (Wm)	174kd	+1c	225c	161c	1253	Schroders Wv	837c	-7c	875	618	2917
Astrazeneca	2660	+62	2767	1861	1585	Friends Prov	189kd	-	191	146c	7753	National Grid	525c	+5c	561	471	4443	Sci&Newcastle	480c	+3	492c	421	1421
Aviva	708c	+9c	709c	573c	3388	Gallagher Grp	900	+5	907c	707	2222	Next	1398kd	-18	1681	1268	1254	Sci&Sth Enrgy	1011	-2	1040	815c	6027
BAA	630kd	+1	644	571c	3889	GlaxoSmithKline	1465kd	+11	1544	1101	1024	Nthn Rock	835c	+4c	836c	705	3555	Sci Power	533kd	-2	587	386c	6028
Barclays	614c	+7c	614c	519c	1004	GUS	911	+7	989	821	1237	O2	209c	-	209c	114	2100	Stand Chart	1296	+2	1294	924	4887
BIG Grp	559	-8	574	344	2724	Hammerston	988	-2	999	780c	2260	Old Mutual	150kd	+3c	151c	115	2782	Severn Trent	1027	+7	1058	885c	4015
BIG S&P	375	+10	375	316	564	Hanson	594c	-5c	609c	409c	1030	Parsons	549	-2	694c	602c	1374	Shire Pharmd	725	+5	725	519c	3200
BOD Grp	1148	+7	1173	917c	1008	HOS	897	+6c	912	732c	3333	Prudential	534	+4	542c	414c	7481	Smiths Group	976c	+5	978c	764c	1437
Boots Group	610	682c	583c	1009	HSBC Hldgs	946kd	-3c	949c	825c	5562	Reckitt Benckiser	1820	-4	1837	1513	1046	Smith&Nephew	506c	+1c	558	451c	1434	
BP	55	-6	683c	300c	1011	Imp Chem	327	-2	330c	226c	1032	Reed Elsevier	509	-3	553c	461c	1396	Stand Chart	1296	+2	1294	924	4887
Bp	769c	-1c	771	438	1094	Imp Tobacco Grp	1714	+6	1719	1336	1271	Rentokil Int'l	161	+1c	173c	139c	7779	Tesco	312kd	+2c	335c	294c	1056
Br Airways	301	+5c	320	215c	6258	Intencom Hotel	787	-1	798	612	3729	Reuters Grp	394c	+4c	426c	351c	1047	Unilever	564kd	-	602c	479	5983
Br Amers Tob	1304	-3	1329	857	1003	Int'l Power	244	+3	252c	150c	6025	Revam	516c	+1c	519	443c	1115	Util Utilities	556c	+5c	585	547	4010
Br Land	1026c	+9	1044	780	1128	ITV	109kd	-2	130	101	2145	Rio Tinto	2384	+23	2414	1430	6599	Vodafone Grp	125kd	-	155	125c	3577
BSkyB	497	-59c	491	3382	1002	Johnson Math	1270	-19	1289	915	1280	Rolls-Royce	387c	+9	388	226	6441	Whitbread	949kd	+2c	1125c	828	1498
BT Group	219c	+24c	225	194c	1012	Kelda Grp	743c	-3	758	539	4018	Royal Bank Scot	1695	+1	1833	1522	3219	William Hill	517kd	+1	615	491c	4848
Cable & Wire	120	+10	164	107	1015	Kingsfisher	223c	+2c	216c	201	5988	Royal Sun Am	115kd	+2c	115c	73c	7482	Wiseley	1251kd	+20	1240	877	3288
Cadbury Sch	558	-2	594	459	1016																		
Cain Energy	1898	-27	2018	1042	3643																		
Capita Group	392	+2c	394	345	3263																		
Carnival	3230kd	+25	3241	2637	2568																		

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AUSSIES WAVER OVER LSE PRICE

THE Takeover Panel has told an Aussie bank to put up or shut up if it is going to bid for the **London Stock Exchange**.

Macquarie Bank has until December 15 to make a bid but it has hinted it is too expensive, being valued at £1.5bn.

Shares in the LSE fell by 9p to 595p as the wrangle continued.

The Australian bank had hoped to form a consortium to bid for the Stock Exchange when it announced its interest in August.

But it said: "The significant increase in

speculation since that time and its impact on the LSE's share price has made any assessment of the fundamental value of the LSE increasingly challenging."

It added: "Macquarie takes a disciplined view on valuation."

Bid speculation has sent the LSE share price soaring by 74% since last October.

The remaining bidder is the European exchange operator **Euronext**.

It is in the process of talking to its own shareholders about a possible bid.

Source: www.DigitalLook.com

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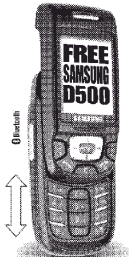
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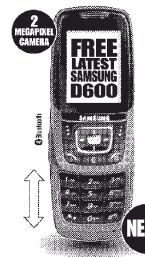
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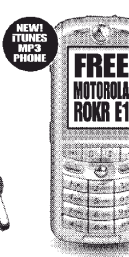
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TRUCKING INDUSTRY STEPS UP A GEAR

TRUCKING is fast becoming an attractive career option for many. Gone are the days of exhausted and under-paid drivers confined to their cabins for hours on end without a break. Instead, new legislation has helped haul the industry into the 21st century giving it a make-over that even Trinnie and Susannah would find hard to top.

Andrew Horner, chairperson of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's (REC) Drivers Sector Group, which is made up of over 200 recruiters that specialise in this area, explains how improved industry standards and legislation

such as the Working Time Directive has helped foster such a change. He says, "limiting the working week to 48 hours over a 17 week period means drivers can achieve the work-life balance they deserve."

Although the Working Time Directive has created substantial extra administration for employers, positive effects have also resulted including regulated employee breaks. Truckers can now enjoy half an hour's break when working 6.9 hours and 45 minutes for 9 hours or more. Andrew Horner continues, "Not only are the breaks regulated but the directive also makes sure that truckers get at least one rest day a week and four weeks holiday a

year. However, it is crucial for workers to ensure that they are working with employers or agencies who understand and apply these regulations."

Due to greater regularity of hours and the guarantee of four weeks holiday, there is nothing to stop women combining a rewarding career in trucking with their family commitments. Horner says, "If you thought driving wasn't for you because you didn't fit the traditional stereotype of a trucker, think again - you could be just what the profession is looking for and with industry standards on the rise, now is the time to take advantage."

Tom Hadley, director of external

affairs at the REC adds, "UK business is waking up to the advantages that a truly diverse workforce can bring, and the recruitment industry is keen to play a key role in helping to deliver real change to UK workplaces, particularly in sectors such as driving."

If you are considering a career in trucking, it is crucial that you work with a reputable recruitment agency. Make sure your health and safety needs are given priority by

logging on to the REC website <http://www.rec.co.uk/rec/sectorgroups/drivers/asp> for a full list of REC members that sign up to the strict Code of Good Recruitment.



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British Greyhound Racing Board

WALTHAMSTOW TONIGHT

GEE VEE (10.05) may have a bit to find on the heat clock with Special Deal for tonight's Teatop Puppy Stakes at Walthamstow, but that differential is by no means to the extent that the odds reflect and he should be backed at the 5-1 chalked up by Bet365 and Coral.

It is one up to the punters so far in this year's Racing Post Festival with Abbot Pete landing the first final - the Goodwood Cup - at the weekend and it is the rapidly improving Special Deal, allegedly sold for between £15K and £20K last week, that will go to traps a warm order for this 475m decider.

His chance is obvious as he has simply been burning the Stow sand up in recent weeks, but this is the biggest ask of his career so far and another speedy exit - he produced a PB split in

■ **by JIM AUSTIN of the RACING POST**

the heats - will be required. There is no doubt that he is the most likely winner, but how can Gee Vee be 5-1? Dave Mullins' dog was every bit as impressive as Special Deal to the eye in the weekend's heats and, while the clock gives the latter a near-two-length advantage, that could count for very little should rafter Droopys Clarke do an immediate left turn on leaving the traps and cut across the favourite.

Gee Vee, a confirmed middle runner, is perfectly boxed in four and will keep as straight as a die on the dash to the turn. He can be erratic at the gates, but has topped off on his last two Stow visits and will hopefully do likewise now the chips are down.

Betting (Totesport): 5-4 Special Deal, 7-2 Droopys Clarke, Gee Vee, 4 Jazz Hurricane, 10 Driving Up West, 12 Maxie Magpie.

The meeting, which is televised live on Channel 425, also features the heats of the Carlisle Brass British Bred Stakes (475m) and the Racing Post Festival Stakes (640m).

Not surprisingly, the staying competition has produced a terrific entry and will certainly take plenty of winning.

Dark Star Henry (8.48), third in the Grand Prix final over C&D 54 days ago, is as gutsy as any dog could be, while producing a something flashing off in front, he is boxed clever and looks the percentage call for heat one.



GEE WHIZZ: Stow tip Gee Vee 10.05

Drominboy Jet (9.14) was all the rage for a one-off over C&D at the weekend, but made a complete horlicks of the start and could never get competitive after running into trouble at the third bend.

It may be worth returning to the well with him tonight to recoup those losses, while Junior Mechanic (9.53) looks the call for a weak third bend.

In the British-bred stakes, Zigzag Dutchy (9.40) will start prohibitive odds not only for tonight's third heat but the competition as a whole as he looks far superior to any of the opposition.

WALTHAMSTOW TONIGHT

7.45	(A9)	475m	9.14	(Open)	640m
2121 Reprint (q)		29.8	1141 Bepe Black (sa lw)		29.8
2122 Droopys Timus (sa)		30.9	2135 Blue Legend (q)		30.9
2123 Droopys Timus (sa)		30.9	2141 Achmeti Power (nd)		30.9
2124 DROOPYS FEDERER (nd)		29.7	1315 DROMINBOY JET (nd)		30.7
2125 Popple Fish (sa)		30.1	2136 Droopys Fish (sa)		30.1
4254 Prodigal Fire (nd)		29.7	6454 Prodigal Fire (nd)		29.7
2126 Droopys Fish (sa)		30.1	2127 Droopys Fish (sa)		30.1
7.58	(P7)	475m			
FERENCE EXIT (q)	All Sorts Star	475m	8.27	(Open)	640m
1481 Falconet (q)		40.7	1481 Falconet (q)		40.7
1482 Falconet (q)		40.7	1482 Falconet (q)		40.7
1483 Falconet (q)		40.7	1483 Falconet (q)		40.7
1484 Falconet (q)		40.7	1484 Falconet (q)		40.7
1485 Falconet (q)		40.7	1485 Falconet (q)		40.7
1486 Falconet (q)		40.7	1486 Falconet (q)		40.7
1487 Falconet (q)		40.7	1487 Falconet (q)		40.7
1488 Falconet (q)		40.7	1488 Falconet (q)		40.7
1489 Falconet (q)		40.7	1489 Falconet (q)		40.7
1490 Falconet (q)		40.7	1490 Falconet (q)		40.7
1491 Falconet (q)		40.7	1491 Falconet (q)		40.7
1492 Falconet (q)		40.7	1492 Falconet (q)		40.7
1493 Falconet (q)		40.7	1493 Falconet (q)		40.7
1494 Falconet (q)		40.7	1494 Falconet (q)		40.7
1495 Falconet (q)		40.7	1495 Falconet (q)		40.7
1496 Falconet (q)		40.7	1496 Falconet (q)		40.7
1497 Falconet (q)		40.7	1497 Falconet (q)		40.7
1498 Falconet (q)		40.7	1498 Falconet (q)		40.7
1499 Falconet (q)		40.7	1499 Falconet (q)		40.7
1500 Falconet (q)		40.7	1500 Falconet (q)		40.7
8.23	(A6)	475m	8.53	(Open)	640m
1222 SPEED DATER (q)		29.4	1305 BURNINGHAM (sa)		29.5
1223 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	1313 JONIC MECHANIC (nd) (ep)		30.6
1224 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	1214 Fabulous Spook (f) (no)		30.2
1225 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	2654 BURNINGHAM (sa)		29.7
1226 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	2265 Archer Sparkler (ep) (w)		30.7
1227 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	4255 CARL HENRY (sa)		30.7
1228 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	Star betting: 6 Star Kick, Bournemouth, Fabulous Spook		
1229 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	10.08	(Open)	475m
1230 Speed Dater (q)		29.4	1132 Mase Maggie (ep) (w)		25.12
8.48	(Open)	640m	1131 Special Deal (sa) (w)		25.12
1316 DARK STAR HENRY (sa)		35.7	1122 Chroony (q) (w)		25.12
1491 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	1021 GEE VEE (NAP) (ep)		25.12
1492 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	1221 Kinky (w) (w)		25.12
1493 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	3.342 Dining Up West (ep)		20.00
1494 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	Star betting: 6 Special Deal, 7.2 Droopys Fish, Jack Hammer, 6.23 Mase Maggie		
1495 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	10.17	(A1)	475m
1496 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	1231 Corbin Deer (sa)		29.03
1497 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	1154 Annos Horcho (f) (ep)		29.03
1498 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	4451 Ginnofer Glen (nd) (ep)		29.03
1499 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	1223 Maximum Speed (nd) (ep)		29.03
1500 Wooded Cat (sa)		35.7	1434 Moscow Sandy (nd) (ep)		29.03
9.01	(A4)	475m	4221 SMOOTH PENE (nd)		29.03
1221 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7	Star betting: 6 Mase Maggie, 5.25 Mase Maggie		
1222 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7	4134 7.2 Smooth Penny, 9.2 Ginnofer Glen		
1223 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7	10.30	(S3)	640m
1224 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7	CENDILY BLOOM (3)	Kris The Book	40.00
1225 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1226 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1227 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1228 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1229 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1230 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1231 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1232 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1233 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1234 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1235 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1236 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1237 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1238 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1239 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			
1240 SLEEK SEAN (sa)		29.7			

BROUGHT TIPS

7.35 CLUNE TEDDY (3)	.....	Great Attempt (4)
7.51 CANNY MARGIE (4)	.....	Fabulous Star (6)
8.06 FITZROY BLACK (nap) (5)	.....	Granary Dauphin (1)
8.21 SHARNAS ROSE (2)	.....	Chivalry (5)
8.36 POND NURVEY (5)	.....	Burgoyne Sandy (6)
8.52 IVESTON MINX (nb) (3)	.....	Geordie Magic (5)
9.08 BANK IT (1)	.....	Frontier Friend (3)
9.23 SALTIE HAWK (3)	.....	Captain Zippy (6)
9.36 CATUNDA BARBIE (1)	.....	Meadowdale Game (6)
9.53 BACKPACK (6)	Neston Kewell (5)
10.08 BLACK DOUGLAS (4)	Newlawn Timmy (1)
10.24 HOT AND STEAMY (6)	Hibs Seven (3)

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SUNDERLAND			SHEFFIELD			SUNDERLAND		
11:054	Dusty Dawn (w) (ex)	28.37	12:51	ROMA CITY (A2)	450m	12:52	LEY MAGIK (A6)	500m
11:056	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:52	Begay Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:53	Landed Lanta (w) (ex)	500m
11:057	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:53	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:54	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:058	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:54	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:55	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:059	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:55	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:56	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:060	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:56	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:57	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:061	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:57	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:58	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:062	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:58	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	12:59	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:063	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	12:59	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:00	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:064	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:00	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:01	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:065	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:01	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:02	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:066	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:02	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:03	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:067	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:03	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:04	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:068	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:04	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:05	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:069	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:05	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:06	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:070	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:06	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:07	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:071	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:07	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:08	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:072	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:08	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:09	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:073	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:09	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:10	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:074	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:10	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:11	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:075	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:11	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:12	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:076	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:12	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:13	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:077	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:13	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:14	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:078	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:14	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:15	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:079	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:15	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:16	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:080	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:16	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:17	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:081	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:17	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:18	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:082	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:18	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:19	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:083	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:19	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:20	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:084	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:20	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:21	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:085	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:21	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:22	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:086	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:22	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:23	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:087	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:23	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:24	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:088	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:24	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:25	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:089	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:25	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:26	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:090	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:26	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:27	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:091	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:27	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:28	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:092	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:28	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:29	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:093	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:29	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:30	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:094	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:30	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:31	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:095	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:31	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:32	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:096	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:32	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:33	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:097	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:33	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:34	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:098	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:34	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:35	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:099	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:35	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:36	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:100	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:36	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:37	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:101	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:37	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:38	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:102	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:38	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:39	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:103	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:39	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:40	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:104	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:40	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:41	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:105	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:41	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:42	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:106	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:42	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:43	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:107	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:43	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:44	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:108	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:44	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:45	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:109	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:45	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:46	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:110	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:46	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:47	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:111	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:47	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:48	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:112	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:48	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:49	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:113	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:49	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:50	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:114	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:50	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:51	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:115	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:51	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:52	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:116	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:52	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:53	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:117	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:53	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:54	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:118	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:54	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:55	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:119	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:55	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:56	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:120	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:56	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:57	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:121	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:57	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:58	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:122	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:58	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	13:59	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:123	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	13:59	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:00	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:124	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:00	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:01	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:125	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:01	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:02	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:126	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:02	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:03	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:127	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:03	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:04	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:128	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:04	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:05	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:129	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:05	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:06	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:130	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:06	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:07	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:131	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:07	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:08	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:132	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:08	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:09	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:133	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:09	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:10	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:134	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:10	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:11	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:135	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:11	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:12	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:136	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:12	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:13	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:137	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:13	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:14	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:138	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:14	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:15	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:139	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:15	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:16	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:140	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:16	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:17	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:141	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:17	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:18	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:142	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:18	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:19	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:143	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:19	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:20	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:144	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:20	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:21	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:145	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:21	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:22	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:146	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:22	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:23	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:147	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:23	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:24	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:148	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:24	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:25	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:149	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:25	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:26	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:150	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:26	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:27	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:151	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:27	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:28	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:152	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:28	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:29	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:153	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:29	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:30	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:154	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:30	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:31	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:155	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:31	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:32	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:156	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:32	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:33	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:157	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:33	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:34	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:158	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:34	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:35	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:159	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:35	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:36	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:160	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:36	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:37	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:161	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:37	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:38	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:162	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:38	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:39	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:163	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:39	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:40	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:164	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:40	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:41	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:165	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:41	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:42	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:166	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:42	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:43	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:167	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:43	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:44	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:168	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:44	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:45	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:169	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:45	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:46	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:170	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:46	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:47	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:171	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:47	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48	14:48	Leary Borne (w) (ex)	500m
11:172	Daunt Dan (w) (ex)	28.37	14:48	Beckley Street (w) (ex)	27.48			

STAR RACING



CLASS ACT: Bewleys Berry makes a winning return at Wetherby while (inset) Lan-kawi (right) outpoints Dafarabad

YOU TO BEW-TY

BEWLEYS BERRY created a big impression with a resounding victory on his debut over fences in the Harry Atkinson Memorial Beginners' Chase at Wetherby.

Howard Johnson's imposing chestnut was one of last season's top staying hurdlers and he made a successful transition to chasing with a foot-perfect display. Graham Lee allowed the 4-7 favourite stride on at the fourth fence and, jumping like an old hand, he was never seriously threatened - apart from briefly by a loose horse - to come home 12 lengths ahead of the runner-up, Briery Fox.

Bookmakers VC Bet were suitably impressed and slashed his odds for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival into 10-1 from 16-1.

Engine

Owner Graham Wylie was delighted with the performance.

He said: "That was a very good start. 'Graham said he was a bit worried by the loose horse, apart from that he said he was never off the bridge and the horse has a big engine. He said the horse loves his jumping."

"After falling at Cheltenham and being pulled up at Aintree that will be a nice confidence booster for him."

"I don't know where he'll go next but I'm sure Howard will have it planned."

J P McNamara switched from Lingfield's abandoned meeting and the move paid off when he landed a 1,065-1 double off Whisped Promises and She's The Lady for Alcester-based permit holder Roger Brookhouse.

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes reported that Redemption and Kandjar D'Allier were the big market movers yesterday for

by **PETER THICKETT**

Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury.

Redemption is 16s from 25-1 and Kandjar D'Allier 14-1 from 20s. Totesport have also cut both horses with Redemption on 20-1 from 28s.

Carl Llewellyn is hoping a clean round of jumping can see Redemption go close. Nigel Twiston-Davies' 10-year-old hasn't won since January 2004 but was travelling well towards the head affairs when falling two fences from home in the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham two weeks ago.

"He would have a good chance barring accidents," said Llewellyn.

Reflecting on the Paddy Power, he continued: "I think he was going very well until he fell and he would have had a good chance of winning."

"He won impressively in a decent race a few years ago and that was the last time he won in fact, so hopefully he will remember."

Sneak

Redemption's last win over fences came in a competitive handicap on Hennessy day at Newbury two years ago, and his lack of winning form has allowed him to sneak into the handicap for this weekend's Grade Three event on 10st 2lb r.

The jockey added: "Trabalgion is a worthy favourite but he is a short price. I think Comply Or Die and Kandjar D'Allier have got decent chances as well."

Timmy Murphy and Henrietta Knight will appear before a Jockey Club disciplinary panel today to appeal over the punishment they received regarding the running and riding of Harrington at Towcester earlier this month.

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

CHEPSTOW
12.30 (2m 4f): 1. MISTER QUASIMODO (J Tizzard 6-4 fav); 2. Kildonan (W Hutchinson 20-1); 3. Glasker Mill (S Thomas 2-1). 21/32 11 ran. C J Tizzard, Sherborne.
Tote: £2.40; pl £1.10, £3.90, £1.20.
exacta: £55.90; csf: £35.20.
1.05 (2m 4f): 1. GUNGADU (R Walsh 1-5 fav); 2. Wellpitt One (C Llewellyn 12-1); 3. Caveman (T Doyle 25-1). 21/1 10 ran. P Nicholls, Shepton Mallet.
Tote: £1.20; pl £1.02, £1.90, £3.40.
exacta: £32.40; csf: £22.60. NR: Taking My Cut.
1.35 (2m): 1. BEYOND THEREALM (C Honour 5-1); 2. Amanpuril (C Llewellyn 4-1); 3. Bojaba (P J Brennan 7-2 fav). Urban Dream 7-2 it fav. 2/21 111. 9 ran. J Frost, Buckfastleigh.
Tote: £5.60; pl £1.50, £2.00, £1.50.
exacta: £22.00; csf: £24.63.
2.10 (2m): 1. ROOKERY LAD (D Croose 5-1); 2. Afro Man (N Pophy 9-4 fav); 3. Reflex Blue (A O'Keefe 14-1). 1/4/1 7 ran. C Kellell, Burton-on-Trent.
Tote: £5.20; pl £1.90, £1.70, £0.70.
exacta: £18.90; csf: £16.24.
2.45 (2m): 1. O'N V A (R Johnson 9-2); 2. Irishkava Bellevue (D Croose 5-1); 3. Keepers Mead (R Walford 7-1). Shamawan 11-4 fav. NR / 7/21 7 ran. R Phillips, Moreton-in-Marsh.
Tote: £5.90; pl £2.50, £3.30.
exacta: £26.40; csf: £25.91. tricast: £152.28. NR: Montefiore.
3.00 (2m 3f): 1. HIERS DE BROUAGE (S Craine 9-1); 2. The Extra Man (W Hutchinson 6-1); 3.

Tradingup (P J Brennan 4-1), Alcopop 11-4 fav. 1/21 3/21 8 ran. J Portman, Compton.
Tote: £11.00; pl £2.40, £2.20, £2.10.
exacta: £45.20; csf: £56.77. tricast: £233.65. NR: The Holy Bee, Roaringwater.
2.55 (2m): 1. ZANZIBAR BOY (T Scudamore 5-2); 2. Earth Moving (R Walsh 9-1); 3. Leading Authority (J Tizzard 2-1 fav). 3/21 9/1 14 ran. H Morrison, East Blyth.
Tote: £3.30; pl £1.80, £3.00, £1.10.
exacta: £39.60; csf: £23.82.
QUADPOT: £39.20
PLACEPOT: £24.40
WETHERBY
12.25 (2m 7f): 1. BRANDY WINE (J Ennis 7-2 fav); 2. Notaprom (W Kennedy 7-1); 3. Lucky Judge (D C Costello 10-1). Shd, 121. 12 ran. L Lungo, Carnoustown.
Tote: £2.60; pl £1.30, £2.60, £3.00.
exacta: £27.30; csf: £27.33. tricast: £220.95. NR: Bellium, Maraud.
12.55 (2m 1f): 1. BEWLEYS BERRY (G Lee 4-7 fav); 2. Briery Fox (M Bradburne 13-2); 3. Hot Weld (K Mercer 4-1). 121, 81. 7 ran. J Howard Johnson, Crook.
Tote: £1.50; pl £1.10, £3.20.
exacta: £3.20; csf: £4.58.
1.25 (2m): 1. LANKAWI (D Harding 12-1); 2. Dafarabad (A McCoy 15-8 fav); 3. Mahogany Blaze (T Siddall 16-1). 7/21 4/1 13 ran. J O'Keefe, Leyburn.
Tote: £14.40; pl £2.30, £1.40, £3.10.
exacta: £53.50; csf: £32.53.
2.00 (2m): 1. POLAR GUNNER (A Dobbin 7-1); 2. Super Nomad (M T Greenall 6-1); 3. Argento (F Keniry 6-1). Encore Cadoudal 4-1 fav. NR, 121.

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simon delamere

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Same contact as last Thursday's Lord Neilsson W5/2 has marked my card for today - so expect another BIG day.

0906 664 09 97

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Journalist, author and expert on horseracing systems

MORDIN

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Latest: Kew Green W9/1

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TAUNTON ON 09055 141 603 (613)

TRACKFACTS Right-hand oval track of one mile two furlongs. There are 4 fences in each of the two straights and five hurdles per circuit, with a short run-in of 150yds.

12.30 JUVENILE NOVICES' SELLING HURDLE Class G (9 flights) 2m1f (12 runners) £2,330

1	ARNO RIVER (24)	D Brace 10 10.....J A Jenkins (7) 39
2	COMPTON QUAY (8)	Miss K George 10 10.....B Hitchcott #68
3	DARKO KARIM (10/8)	R Hodges 10 10.....R Greene 47
4	GALAXY DANCER (F19)	N B King 10 10.....C Honour (5)
5	INCHCAPE ROCK (12)	J G O'Shea 10 10.....V Slattery 65
6	JAMAARON (F35)	W G M Turner 10 10 Rucey-Butler (7) 30
7	KING MARRAKECH (F42)	M Usher 10 10.....D Crosse
8	LIGHTENING FIRE (F54/P)	B J Llewellyn 10 10.....O McPhail
9	MAGNATE (7)	Miss S Johnson 10 10 Rhy's Hughes (7)
10	SMOKEY THE BEAR (F44)	A P Jones 10 10.....J Goldstein
11	MISS DEIFYING (18)	R Curtis 10 10.....T Doyle
12	STRATHYAT (10)(BF/V)	M Ppe 10 10.....T Scudamore 60

Star Betting: 2-Inchcape Rock, 9-Strathyat, 3-Compton Quay, 10-Darko Karim, 25-Jamaaron, 33-Arno River, Galaxy Dancer, 50-others. 2004: La Lamberton, 3-10-10, (J E Moore, 3-1) M Pipe, 13, ran.

STARFORM: STRATHYAT Dgr: Inchcape Rock

1.05 BEAUTY OF BATH Maiden HURDLE Class D (9 flights) 2m1f (14 runners) £5,439

1	ACAMBO (F83)	M Ppe 11 12.....R Greene
2	BARATHEA BLUE (F24)	M Ppe 11 12.....T Scudamore
3	BUTLER SERVICES (7)	Jonjo O'Neill 5 11 2.....M A Fitzgerald
4	DREAMS JEWEL (6/6/G)	C Roberts 5 11 2.....O McPhail 70
5	HUCKSTER (F187)	Miss V Williams 6 11 2.....A O'Keefe
6	IDRIS (10/A)	E L Moore 4 11 2.....J E Moore #97
7	ISLAND LIGHT (18)	P Wegman 5 11 2.....S Curran
8	MICK JEROME (F61)	R Haugen (NOR) 4 11 2 M Batchelor
9	SALOPAIN (229)	H Dwyer 5 11 2.....M Bradburne
10	SPANISH DON (F54)	D Elsworth 7 11 2.....R Walford
11	SUNFIRE FUTURE (4)	M Harris 6 11 2.....B Hitchcott 66
12	TOPKAT (F41/T)	M Ppe 4 11 2.....T J Malone (3)
13	ANNA PANNA (F453)	R Aher 4 11 2.....S Walsh (7)

Star Betting: 3-Spanish Don, 6-Huffy, 7-Acambo, Idris, 8-Barathea Blue, Huckster, 10-Butler Services, Mick Jerome, Topkat, 16-others. 2004: Medici, 6-1-12, (R Thornton, 4-1) Mrs Jemima Young, 10, ran.

STARFORM: IDRIS Danger: Barathea Blue

UTTOXETER ON 09055 141 601 (611)

TONY LEWIS

12.20 THE MICK WESTON	12.20 THE MICK WESTON
12.20 BEST PROFILE	12.20 BEST PROFILE
2.00 RAHEEL	2.00 RAHEEL
3.30 ROWLEY LORCAN	3.30 ROWLEY LORCAN
3.40 INGRES	3.40 INGRES

ROTTWEILER: 12.20 Rowley 12.20 Best Profile 1.25 Rare Coincidence 2.00 March Bonita 2.35 Tighten Your Belt 3.10 First 3.40 Gatorade

GOING: Good to Soft - Soft in Places

PLACEPO: First six races.

INSPECTION 7.30 AM

TOP TRAINERS (with runners) Miss V Williams 16 winners, (18% strike rate), -537.72, N Twiston-Davies 16, (21%), -£14.60, H Daly 12, (20%), -£7.24, E Williams 9, (21%), -£16.83, K Bailey 9, (13%), -£38.58, D McCain 7, (10%), -£13.50, A King 6, (10%), -£36.70, Mrs K Waldron 6, (9%), -£41.27, R Ford 5, (15%), -£11.10, D Wintle 5, (15%), -£66.10.

12.20 NOVICES' HURDLE (Div 1) Class E (10 flights) 2m (12 runners) £2,987

1	CHORIGOR (12)	Miss S Winton 4 10 12.....J A McCarthy #70
2	COURAGEOUS DOVE (F31)	A Bailey 4 10 12.....A C Doyle (3) 43
3	DICTATOR (16/17)	D Gault 4 10 12.....S Thomas 68
4	MAYAS (10/12)	C Bailey 5 10 12.....N Fahly 62
5	MY GOOD LORD (20/3)	J Lamy 5 10 12.....James Davies 37
6	NOVICATE (19)	S Eales 5 10 12.....P J Brennan
7	PRESENTER (F160)	M Sheppard 5 10 12.....P J Brennan
8	THE MICK WESTON (25/102.5)	P Phipps 6 10 12.....R Johnson
9	TYTHKNOT (22/1)	C O'Neil 6 10 12.....O Nemes (3) 53
10	WOOLSTONE BOY (F31/T)	J J Day 4 10 12.....J P McNamee
11	PINKERTON MILL (12/18)	J T Simpson 4 10 12.....L Treadwell (5)
12	PRIDEWOOD HIDE (162)	R Phipps 6 10 12.....M Nicoll (5)

Star Betting: 4-5 The Mick Weston, 6-Tytknot, 12-Courageous Dove, 14-Chipiron, Dictator, 16-Mayas, Woolstone Boy, 25-others. 2004: Kingston Town, 4-11-5, (T Scudamore, 13-8 (fav) M Pipe, 8, ran.

S'FORM: THE MICK WESTON Dgr: Tytknot

12.50 EMPOWER TRAINING NOVICES' HURDLE Class E (14 flights) 3m (12 runners) £3,443

1	BEST PROFILE (25/5)	N Twiston-Davies 5 11 4.....C Llewellyn 79
2	DRONGO (21/9)	Miss J McCarthy 5 11 4.....R Johnson 102
3	EIGHTY FIFTY FIVE (23)	R Phipps 5 10 12.....R Johnson 102
4	GRITTY PALACE (29)	J Lamy 5 10 12.....M Nicoll (5)
5	HELL OF A TIME (21/1)	Miss S Winton 8 10 12.....J McLeod
6	LOVEY LORCAN (7/8/5)	D Wintle 6 10 12.....P J Brennan 93
7	STRANGE DAYS (14/1)	C Bailey 6 10 12.....R Johnson
8	TONI KARAJA (13/1)	P Phipps 6 10 12.....P Aspell (3) 107
9	WOODVIEW (389)	C Bailey 6 10 12.....J P McNamee
10	BREAK THE ICE (24/1)	C Bailey 6 10 12.....C M Studer (7)
11	BREK'S GIRL (32/1)	M Scudamore 4 10 5.....J Kingston (7) 69
12	STONY STATION (724)	S Eales 6 10 5.....W Winton

Star Betting: 4-Best Profile, 4-Break the Ice, 6-Lovey Lorcan, 6-Eighty Fifty Five, 7-Gritty Palace, 8-Reto's Girl, 16-Strange Days, Toni Karaja, 16-others. 2004: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: BEST PROFILE Danger: Karanja

1.40 BEGINNERS' CHASE Class D (13 fences) 2m1/4 (9 runners) £5,514

1	CHOCKDEE (29/10/G)	P Nicholls 9 11 5.....J Tizzard
2	HAUKAL (24/G)	M G Rime 7 11 5.....J E Moore
3	HAUKAL (24/G)	R Buckler 8 11 5.....P Davey (10)
4	HE'S THE GAFFER (28/8)	R Buckler 8 11 5.....B Hitchcott
5	JASKINI (6/10/5/F)	J Corcoran 9 11 5.....H Ephgrave (5)
6	KINGS BROOK (30)	Nick Williams 5 11 5.....T Doyle #107
7	NAYODABAYO (14/10/F)	E Williams 5 11 5.....Paul Moloney
8	ZIBELINE (12/G)	B Ellison 8 11 5.....W Hutchinson
9	TYUP POMPEY (35)	Miss J Davis 4 10 7.....J Goldstein

Star Betting: 7-4 Crossbow Creek, 4-Chockdee, 8-He's The Gaffer, Nayodabayo, 10-Kings Brook, Zibeline, 12-Hauk, 20-others. 2004: No corresponding race.

CROSSBOW CREEK was the best of these over hurdles and has the scope and build to do well over fences. He hails from a shrewd yard and is sure to have been well schooled. Chockdee was rated about 10lb lower than the selection over timber but his problem was attitude. He travels well in his races but paid scant regard to his hurdles and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory on more than

STARFORM: CROSSBOW CREEK Dgr: Zibeline

2.15 LEATH JEWELLERS AND VALUERS NH NOVICES' HURDLE Class D (10 flights) 2m3/4 (10 runners) £7,339

1	PARISIENNE GALE (7/10/G)	R Ford 6 11 8.....T J Malone (3) #86
2	ALLEZ MELINA (15/T)	M A Hamilton-Fairley 4 10 12 P Hide
3	BALLYMENA (20/8/F)	C Roberts 4 10 12.....L Stephens (5)
4	BARLEUR (18)	P Bown 5 10 12.....T Doyle
5	CLASSY CHICK (194)	H Daly 4 10 12.....M Bradburne
6	DISTANT ROMANCE (54/G)	M G Davidson 8 10 12 Rucey-Butler (7) 48
7	GOTTA GET ON (20)	R Aher 4 10 12.....R Walford
8	MISS MIDWINTER (14)	R Hodges 4 10 12.....T Scudamore
9	MISSY MOSCOW (189/G)	H J Evans 7 10 12.....V Slattery 20
10	PEARLY BAY (217/S)	M G Rime 7 10 12.....J E Moore

Star Betting: 4-5 Parisienne Gale, 11-2 Miss Midwinter, 6-Ballymena, 7-Barleaur, 8-Distant Romance, 12-others. 2004: Queen Soraya, 6-10-12, (S Thomas, 3-2) Miss H Knight, 5 ran. Parisienne Gale is difficult to oppose despite conceding 10lb to her rivals. She loses to Distant Romance and has won five of her last seven starts - three over fences and two hurdles - making in each case a solid. She is a sound jumper in the main, will handle the last conditions and her jockey takes a useful turn off. Distant Romance comes here after winning a poor Fontwell (2m2f, good) and faces a much easier

S'FORM: PARISIENNE GALE Dgr: Classy Chick

UTTOXETER ON 09055 141 601 (611)

TONY LEWIS

12.20 THE MICK WESTON	12.20 THE MICK WESTON
12.20 BEST PROFILE	12.20 BEST PROFILE
2.00 RAHEEL	2.00 RAHEEL
3.30 ROWLEY LORCAN	3.30 ROWLEY LORCAN
3.40 INGRES	3.40 INGRES

ROTTWEILER: 12.20 Rowley 12.20 Best Profile 1.25 Rare Coincidence 2.00 March Bonita 2.35 Tighten Your Belt 3.10 First 3.40 Gatorade

GOING: Good to Soft - Soft in Places

PLACEPO: First six races.

INSPECTION 7.30 AM

TOP TRAINERS (with runners) Miss V Williams 16 winners, (18% strike rate), -537.72, N Twiston-Davies 16, (21%), -£14.60, H Daly 12, (20%), -£7.24, E Williams 9, (21%), -£16.83, K Bailey 9, (13%), -£38.58, D McCain 7, (10%), -£13.50, A King 6, (10%), -£36.70, Mrs K Waldron 6, (9%), -£41.27, R Ford 5, (15%), -£11.10, D Wintle 5, (15%), -£66.10.

12.20 NOVICES' HURDLE (Div 1) Class E (10 flights) 2m (12 runners) £2,987

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2	COURAGEOUS DOVE (F31)	A Bailey 4 10 12.....A C Doyle (3) 43
3	DICTATOR (16/17)	D Gault 4 10 12.....S Thomas 68
4	MAYAS (10/12)	C Bailey 5 10 12.....N Fahly 62
5	MY GOOD LORD (20/3)	J Lamy 5 10 12.....James Davies 37
6	NOVICATE (19)	S Eales 5 10 12.....P J Brennan
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8	THE MICK WESTON (25/102.5)	P Phipps 6 10 12.....R Johnson
9	TYTHKNOT (22/1)	C O'Neil 6 10 12.....O Nemes (3) 53
10	WOOLSTONE BOY (F31/T)	J J Day 4 10 12.....J P McNamee
11	PINKERTON MILL (12/18)	J T Simpson 4 10 12.....L Treadwell (5)
12	PRIDEWOOD HIDE (162)	R Phipps 6 10 12.....M Nicoll (5)

Star Betting: 4-5 The Mick Weston, 6-Tytknot, 12-Courageous Dove, 14-Chipiron, Dictator, 16-Mayas, Woolstone Boy, 25-others. 2004: Kingston Town, 4-11-5, (T Scudamore, 13-8 (fav) M Pipe, 8, ran.

S'FORM: THE MICK WESTON Dgr: Tytknot

12.50 EMPOWER TRAINING NOVICES' HURDLE Class E (14 flights) 3m (12 runners) £3,443

1	BEST PROFILE (25/5)	N Twiston-Davies 5 11 4.....C Llewellyn 79
2	DRONGO (21/9)	Miss J McCarthy 5 11 4.....R Johnson 102
3	EIGHTY FIFTY FIVE (23)	R Phipps 5 10 12.....R Johnson 102
4	GRITTY PALACE (29)	J Lamy 5 10 12.....M Nicoll (5)
5	HELL OF A TIME (21/1)	Miss S Winton 8 10 12.....J McLeod
6	LOVEY LORCAN (7/8/5)	D Wintle 6 10 12.....P J Brennan 93
7	STRANGE DAYS (14/1)	C Bailey 6 10 12.....R Johnson
8	TONI KARAJA (13/1)	P Phipps 6 10 12.....P Aspell (3) 107
9	WOODVIEW (389)	C Bailey 6 10 12.....J P McNamee
10	BREAK THE ICE (24/1)	C Bailey 6 10 12.....C M Studer (7)
11	BREK'S GIRL (32/1)	M Scudamore 4 10 5.....J Kingston (7) 69
12	STONY STATION (724)	S Eales 6 10 5.....W Winton

Star Betting: 4-Best Profile, 4-Break the Ice, 6-Lovey Lorcan, 6-Eighty Fifty Five, 7-Gritty Palace, 8-Reto's Girl, 16-Strange Days, Toni Karaja, 16-others. 2004: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: BEST PROFILE Danger: Karanja

AT THE RACES

TONY LEWIS


12.30 INCHCAPE ROCK	12.30 COMPTON QUAY
1.05 SPANISH DON (10/8)	1.05 SPANISH DON (10/8)
1.40 CROSSBOW CREEK	1.40 CROSSBOW CREEK
2.15 PARISIENNE GALE	2.15 PARISIENNE GALE
2.50 COMANCHE WAR PAINT	2.50 COMANCHE WAR PAINT
3.20 MIDDLEHAM PARK	3.20 MIDDLEHAM PARK

ROTTWEILER: 12.30 Strathyat 1.05 Idris 1.40 Chockdee 2.15 Parisienne Gale 2.50 Windy Spirit 3.20 Tonic Du Charmil.

GOING: Good to Firm

JACKPOT: PLACEPO: First six races.

2.50 GOLDEN KNOB HANDICAP CHASE Class D (10 flights) 3m3f (7 runners) £5,709

	2	WINDY SPIRIT (21)(F,G)(P)	
	22444	E Williams 10 11 8.....	Paul Moloney 96
	3	TRY CATCH PADDY (23)(S/P)	
	P030-5	M Pipe 7 11 8.....	R Greene —
	4	EVEN MORE (8)(C,D,F,G,S)	
	10-300	R Aher 10 11 7.....	R Walford #108
	5	MEMPHIS BEURY (21)(G)	
	2F2U2-	H Daly 5 11 5.....	M Bradburne 106
	6	IT'S DEFINITE (22)(F,G)(P)	
	14054P	P Bowen 6 10 13.....	T Doyle 104
	7	MISS DIVINE (14)(S)	
	036-63	C Mann 7 10 3.....	D Crosse 97

Star Betting: 7-2 Comanche War Paint, Memphis Beury, Mick Divine, 6-Try Catch Paddy, 7-It's Definite, 10-Even More, 14-Windy Spirit, 2004: Even More, 9-11-12, (R Walford, 3-2) R Aher, 8, ran.

S: COMANCHE WAR PAINT D: Memphis Beury

3.20 SOPS IN WINE HANDICAP HURDLE Class D (10 flights) 2m3/4 (10 runners) £5,179

1	TONIC DU CHARMIL (20)(F,G,S,Y/T)	M Ppe 5 11 12.....T Scudamore 95
2	CANDARU (15)(D/G)	D Gault 9 11 2.....S Curling (5) 60
3	MIDDLEHAM PARK (8)(D,G)	J Mullins 5 11 0 W P Kavanagh (7) 61
4	DEVITO (14)(C,D,F,S)	G F Edwards 4 11 0.....D Edwards (7) #104
5	FREEDOM NOW (14)(F)	R Aher 7 10 13.....R Walford 86
6	NOBLE CALLING (18)(F)	R Hodges 8 10 9.....James White (7) 93
7	DAMARISCOS (192)(B,F,G,S)	P Hobbs 5 10 4.....R Stephens (5) 98
8	TITIAN FLAME (137)(D,S/P)	D Burchell 5 10 4.....L Stephens (5) 95
9	ASHGAN (22)(D,F,G,S)	D Pritchard 10 10.....D P Pritchard (5) 94
10	LONG HANDICAP: Ashgan 8-11.	

Star Betting: 7-Devito, 8-Damariscos, Titian Flame, 10-Freedom Now

ALL THE ACES

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THROUGH THE VICTOR CHANDLER GROUP

NEW DAILY GAMING COLUMN

Following up on our recent column about bluffing, a player on dailystarpoker.com mailed in with this famous tale of a mega bluff carried out by World Series of Poker Champ Stu Ungar.

FAMOUS BLUFFS

It's 1997 at the World Series final table and Stu Ungar looks to be in the driving seat. Having been chip leader from the outset you might have expected Stu to coast a little. Not a bit of it. Stu attacked anyone and everyone and raised on seven successive hands. Was he bluffing? You can bet on it, but none of the other players wanted to risk elimination by challenging him. Eventually, Vegas pro Ronald Stanley managed to steal the blinds a couple of times and positioned himself just \$200,000 shy of Ungar's mighty stash.

It looked like Stanley was about to overtake Ungar and inevitably they ended up in the kind of heads up ordinary poker players dream about. Ungar is in the big blind and Stanley simply calls. The flop comes down Ace of Spades, Nine of Hearts, Six of Spades. Ron Stanley, an extremely savvy pro, had noted every time Ungar flopped top pair with an Ace, he checked the flop and bet the turn. Stu again checked behind Stanley, indicating he may well have the Ace again. The turn produced an Eight and Stanley, nursing a Nine in his hand and second pair, wagered \$25,000. Stu immediately raised \$60,000 and Stanley replied with a call. The river threw down a King. Stanley checked and Ungar bet \$225,000. Ron Stanley pondered momentarily and folded. In typical psycho style Ungar turned up his hole cards to reveal Queen and Ten. He had nothing. It was a mega bluff and Stanley had thrown away the top hand.

TIP OF THE DAY

The very best use of the bluff comes when the community cards are indicating that a probable flush or a straight are out there. A big bet winging in when there's say three Spades on the board or three consecutive cards is going to be treated much more seriously than a big bet coming in when the board isn't betraying anything of a particularly threatening nature. Keep your eye out for these situations as they develop and be ready to load up if it fits in with your strategy for the hand.

POKER ON ITV

As if to finally recognise the sensational momentum in poker's online popularity, ITV 4 has allotted no less than seventy two hours of poker programming for the first two seasons of the World Poker Tour, in the hope of duplicating the tour's amazing success on television in the USA. How long before poker overtakes soccer in the viewing stakes. Check out dailystarpoker.com and see what all the fuss is about.

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FUN 'N' THRILLS

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CRICKET: Flintoff magic gives England hope



ROAR POWER: Freddie after pole-axeing local hero Shahid Afridi

by RODNEY WHITE in Faisalabad

TODAY'S a big day for Ian Botham – his 50th birthday. And it could be an equally important landmark for the new Beefy – Freddie Flintoff.

It was Flintoff's never-say-die guts which kept English hopes alive in the Second Test yesterday and hopes of an unlikely victory surely rest on his shoulders on the final day.

The England all-rounder has, without question, now stepped into the boots of the legendary Botham.

It will certainly take one of those miraculous performances to enable England to level the series as Pakistan were pegged back to 1836 – a lead of 199 in their second innings.

But it was Flintoff's two wickets in two balls shortly after tea that forced the door open again for England and raised hopes of a seventh successive Test series win.

Hero

Flintoff, who took 3-46, had asked for an extra over in the final session. And it paid off as he had Mohammad Yousuf edging on and then next ball knocked out local hero Shahid Afridi's middle-stump with a reverse-swinging delivery.

"I asked for one more over. The ball was reversing a little bit and I'd hit quite a nice rhythm from that end," he said.

"I was running in quite nicely and I felt I had another couple in me."

He meant overs – but was right on the wickets score, too. Yousuf's dismissal ended a fourth-wicket stand of 56 and Afridi had slaughtered the England attack in his first innings 92.

"We saw from the way he played the other day Afridi can take a game



DUCKING IT: Flintoff bumps Salman Butt

away from you very quickly, so it's crucial to get him out cheaply if you can," Flintoff added.

"We stuck in all day – everybody worked hard. We've seen out here that a couple of quick wickets can change the game – and we've managed to get back in it."

One man that Flintoff could not shift, though, was Pakistan captain Inzamam, whose defiance put him on the verge of another half-century.

Flintoff had earlier seen off opener Shoaib Malik, then Matthew Hoggard caught Younis Khan leg-before.

England had a little luck on their side, too, over the dismissal only four runs later of Butt, who made 50.

He would not have been on strike had umpire Darrell Hair not sent the left-hander back when he picked up a single from the previous ball, only to be judged to have run up the middle of the wicket.

Steve Harmison gave England another boost just before the close when Kamran Akmal followed the swing to be caught behind.

The England paceman had also done his bit with the bat in a last-wicket stand with Shaun Udal that added 47 precious runs.

SCOREBOARD

Overnight: Pakistan 462 (Inzamam 109).	
England 391/7 (Ball 115)	
ENGLAND First Innings	
Giles b Shahid Afridi	26
Udal not out	33
Hoggard b Shahid Afridi	2
Harmison run out	16
Extras b1 b12 w1 nb22	36
Total (132.3 overs)	446
Fall: 1-33 2-39 3-107 4-261 5-272 6-327 7-378 8-395 9-399	
Bowling: Shoaib Akhtar 27-4-93-2, Naved-ul-Hasan 20-2-63-2, Mohammad Sami 19-4-51-1, Shahid Afridi 30-3-95-4, Danish Kaneria 32-3-102-0, Shoaib Malik 4-0-29-0	
PAKISTAN Second Innings Close	
Shoaib Malik c Ball b Flintoff	26
Salman Butt lbw b Udal	50
Younis Khan lbw b Hoggard	27
Mohammad Yousuf b Flintoff	20
Inzamam ul-Hasan not out	41
Shahid Afridi b Flintoff	92
Kamran Akmal c G Jones b Harmison	9
Rana Naved-ul-Hasan not out	0
Extras b4 lb4 nb2	10
Total 6 wks (66 overs)	183
Fall: 1-54 2-104 3-108 4-164 5-164 6-183	
Bowling: Hoggard 9-0-28-1, Flintoff 19-2-46-3, Harmison 14-2-11-1, Giles 13-2-35-0, Udal 11-2-25-1	

5 FOR FUN

- Which three-time Derby winning jockey will race over hurdles in Britain and Ireland this winter?
- Eddie Jones is coach of which rugby union international country?
- What was the tongue-twisting score of a Scottish Second Division match between Forfar and East Fife, in the 1963-64 season?
- Which English football club play home games at the Kassam Stadium?
- In which year were athletics events at the Olympics last held on a cinder track?

ANSWERS: Page 61

SPORTWORD

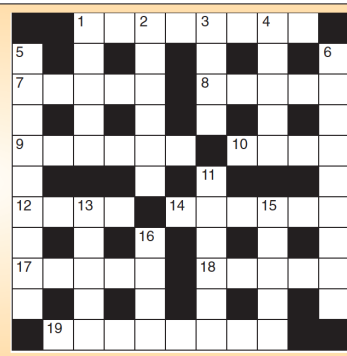
ACROSS

- The nickname of Plymouth Argyle (8)
- Apparatus for male gymnasts (5)
- Irish League football club (5)
- Essex and England wicketkeeper (6)
- Aouita, men's 5,000 metres Olympic champion in 1984 (4)
- Jacky Le Mans winner on six occasions (4)
- Greg twice Open golf champion (6)
- Ian Levante and Republic of Ireland defender (5)
- Hughes, Liverpool, Wolves and England defender (5)
- James Lancashire and England fast bowler (8)

DOWN

- Olivier former formula One driver from France (5)
- Piggott, Derby winning jockey on nine occasions (6)
- Schumacher, brother of Michael (4)
- Jose Olazabal, Spanish golfer (5)
- Terry snooker world champion in 1979 (9)
- Les QPR, Newcastle and England striker (9)
- Tranmere Football League club (6)
- Bracken, England scrum-half (5)
- Winner of the St Leger in 2001 (5)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 61 for Wednesday's answers.



Robbo's eyeing try blitz

by DEAN WILSON

ANDY ROBINSON has made five changes to the England starting 15 as he aims for a try-fest against Samoa on Saturday.

Out go Ben Cohen, Jamie Noon, Matt Dawson, Phil Vickery and Danny Grewcock and in come Tom Voyce, James Simpson-Daniel, Harry Ellis, Matt Stevens and Louis Deacon.

Simpson-Daniel has been recalled into the centre to ignite the back-line, which has yet to sparkle this season.

Pace

The Gloucester man will earn his eighth cap since bursting onto the scene in 2002.

Robinson said: "We want to see James bring what we know he can to the game, which is very good handling, great running skills and fantastic pace."

Simpson-Daniel said: "I've got to bring the best of my game out while filling some big boots too."

Team: Lewsey, Cusack, Simpson-Daniel, Tindall, Voyce, Hodgson, Ellis, Sheridan, Thompson, Stevens, Borthwick, Deacon, Sander-son, Moody, Cory. Replacements: Mears, Freshwater, Shaw, Forrester, Dawson, Barkley, Vardell.

WARREN FIGHT MADE ME SICK



KEEP DUCKING: Ricky Hatton stays cool before Saturday's big title fight

RICKY HATTON says his split with promoter Frank Warren made him so ill that he was forced to miss training.

Hatton meets teak-tough Colombian Carlos Maussa in a light-welterweight unification showdown at the Sheffield Arena on Saturday, confessing that his build-up has been far from ideal.

The IBF world champion revealed: "This has been the most difficult time of my career. Things have got very personal with Frank and some of the hurtful things that have been said badly upset me."

"I made myself ill with frustration and had to take a couple of days out of the gym. My training has been affected but my performance against Maussa won't be."

Hatton will box under the Dennis Hobson's Fight Academy umbrella at Sheffield following his acrimonious departure from Warren, the promoter who guided him to the top of the pile.

Damages

Warren took out an injunction to prevent the Maussa fight taking place but then withdrew it.

But he is still taking legal action against the Hatton camp for damages for breach of contract.

Right now, though, Hatton is fully focused on Saturday's bout.

He said: "It has made me all the more determined to go out there and unleash all the frustration I've got in me."

The fight, screened live on Sky Box Office, is a rare venture out-

side of his home city Manchester.

And the pressure is on him to deliver more than ever following the stunning June win over Aussie legend Kostya Tszyu which saw him become the best fighter in the 10-stone division.

Hatton said: "Tszyu was one of the greatest nights of my life but Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns had several. That's what I want."

To be a world champion is special but to beat the best in the world in my division and one of the best pound-for-pound fighters is a great achievement.

"But the best is yet to come. I've become a good world champion but I want to be a great one."

Lee out in cold

WALES coach Mike Ruddock has brought in Matthew Watkins and switched captain Gareth Thomas to full-back for Saturday's Test against Australia in Cardiff.

Ruddock has kept changes to a minimum after a much-improved performance in last weekend's 33-16 defeat to South Africa so Watkins replaces Thomas at outside centre with Lee Byrne dropping to the bench.

Ruddock said: "The rationale for selection was to minimise the changes this week and build on the performance against South Africa."

No Ebi ending

by IAN WHITTELL

ENGLISH basketball player Ndudi Ebi has been released by the Minnesota Timberwolves, having been paid £15,000 a minute for his trouble.

Ebi, born in London to Nigerian parents, was selected in the first round of the NBA draft in 2003 and handed a guaranteed £1.2m contract.

However, after taking part in just 19 games, Ebi, 21, was released by the Wolves last week.

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TEXTS TO WOOLY

□ Greatest players in the prem should lead by example on & off the pitch. Roy Keane was a dirty player & ill-tempered. **M. Graham**

□ REASON WE DIDN'T GET RONALDINHO WAS DOWN 2 KENYON. HE KNEW HE WAS LEAVING 4 CHELSEA. **MAN UTD FAN**

□ I agree wot a Grt goal Ruitdz woz I think Collins John goal against Boro is a definite contenda 4 goal of the month or even Goal of the season. **Class Utd fan**

□ Ferguson's so called display of contempt 4 the media wholly illustrated what the majority of this country feel about media parasites who produce nothing & add nothing 2 our quality of life. **Phil Alex**

□ Alan Hansen and that other little t*** with a tash aint got a clue what they r on about keane was brilliant in the premier-ship not the best. **Lee terry gillingham**

□ Hansen is right im a liverpool fan and would love to have had keane at anfield in his prime a proper footballer who still is a cut above most others except gerard and lampard. **Laupy**

□ Keane best player prems eva had, zidane deschamps n davidz cudnt cope w/ him. **ANON**

□ Bergkamp. Zola best players ever 2 grace premiership. **Ginger.S'ton**

OTHER TEXTS

□ Geordie maggots loyal? Biggest myth ever. 10,000 against oxford before your saviour with the bad hairdo joined. And yes i can spell loylyty. **ash**

□ To Jan Belfast, Fergie has done wonders for our club and has brought success. Dont jump on band wagon and slag him. Keano and Becks great players but we lost great players before and still won things. United in free fall? Go slag somebody else off Hail Sir Alex. **Red Suggy**

□ To the rams, ur even worse this season. we re comin 4 yal beware. **huggy pne**

□ Jack scum will never b bigger than cardiff. **bluebird reg**

□ Thank goodness for fog! Bolton boys love fog. BWFC EURO TOUR 05/06. **IGGYBOY**

□ Hope youre ready for a hammering on saturday. bulls, your place stinks of bulls****. losers. turner the turnip and his team of cr-pxxx. **sid&Sparky@efc**

□ DY'A KNOW Y JESUS WASNT BORN IN ANFIELD? COZ U'D NEVVA FIND 3 WISE MEN N A VIRGIN THERE! HAPPY XMAS 2 EFC TEXT MANIACS. X. **JOANIE @ EFC**

□ Bill Kenwright there's a young Evertonian who's banged in SEVEN-TEEN goals so far this season. TRUNDLE 2 the bank & give Swansea the ackers **RAPID - WOOLY**

SERIOUSLY football

Jimmy's ready to prove a point

HASSEL: YOU CAN BAIK ON ME



IAN MURTAGH in Alkmaar

JIMMY FLOYD HASSELBAINK tonight returns to the scene where his career almost stalled, intent on underlining his status as one of Europe's top marksmen.

The Middlesbrough striker, 33, has come a long way from the time when he mustered just two goals in 35 games for AZ Alkmaar after an equally dud spell at Telstar.

Having spent three months in prison for handling stolen goods and becoming involved with drug dealers during his troublesome teen years, Hasselbaink's prospects both on and off the pitch looked grim.

But his career took off 13 years ago when he swapped Dutch football for a life in Portugal with Campomaiorense. And he's not looked back since those traumatic times in Alkmaar.

And while Hasselbaink flew into Holland last night for Boro's UEFA Cup tie against their chief rivals in Group D insisting he has nothing to prove, he declared: "I'm 10 times the player I was back then."

"At the start of my career I didn't help myself and wasn't professional enough. I was always late. I skipped training. I used to lie in and say I was ill. I thought I'd already made it. I was too big for my boots. I thought they couldn't sack me."

"When Alkmaar released me I looked for another club but no one wanted me or couldn't offer the money I needed to pay my rent, my car, water, gas and all those things. That's why I went non-league."

Strange

Hasselbaink hasn't stopped scoring since moving to Portugal having played for Leeds, Chelsea and Boro as well as Boavista and Atletico Madrid.

He added: "Gradually, people started putting their arms around my shoulders and believing in me."

"It is quite strange how in Holland nobody believed in me and I didn't get the opportunity and I had to go abroad to produce the goods."

Hasselbaink revisited his eventful past in his recently published autobiography and believes fate has decreed Boro and AZ are drawn in the same group.

He said: "It's strange doing the book and then going back. It's good timing but it's quite frightening."

"I will be coming back 10 times better. I've achieved something while I've been gone. I've become a Dutch international. "I can go back with my head held high and they will look at me as having done something."

Boro boast a 100 per cent record after two games, while the Dutch side have



DUTCH OF CLASS: Hasselbaink and (inset) boss McClaren



three points having played just once. Both are likely to reach the knockout stages, with Steve McClaren's side needing just a point to progress.

DRUGS cheat Abel Xavier last night entered football's hall of shame when he became the first-ever Premiership player to be banned for taking a performance-enhancing substance.

The Portuguese bad boy is facing the sack from Middlesbrough tomorrow after being handed an 18-month suspension by UEFA.

Boro refused to confirm their decision on the eve of their UEFA Cup tie against AZ Alkmaar with a point guaranteeing their place in the last 32.

But commenting on the verdict from Nyon in Switzerland, Boro manager Steve McClaren said: "There is no place for this in football and we will always condemn it."

"Abel is not going to play this season whether he appeals or not."

"I have only just heard the news and it is disappointing but our reaction will come in the next couple of days when we've had time to digest everything."

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TEAMS

AZ ALKMAAR (probable): Timmer, Steinsson, Jaliens, Mathijssen, De Cler, Schaars, Landzaat, Van Galen, Sektioui, Arveladze, Perez.
BORO (probable): Jones, Riggott, Southgate, Ehigogu, Parnaby, Doriva, Boateng, Morrison, Queuedrue, Hasselbaink, Viduka.
Ref: Gianluca Paparesta (Italy).
TV: (ITV4, 5pm, KO 5.30pm).

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	2	2	0	4	0	6	
AZ Alkmaar	1	1	0	2	1	3	
Litex Lovech	1	1	0	2	1	3	
Grasshoppers	2	0	2	1	3	0	
Dnipro	2	0	2	1	5	0	

TO PLAY: Tonight: AZ v Middlesbrough, Dnipro v Litex Lovech, Wed, Nov 30; Grasshoppers v Dnipro, Litex Lovech v AZ, Thurs, Dec 15; AZ v Grasshoppers, Middlesbrough v Litex Lovech.



New Bolton skipper loves the lure of Europe

CAPTAIN KEVIN EYES GLORY

KEVIN NOLAN is starting to feel like Captain Birdseye since becoming Bolton skipper – because everyone's taking the peas.

The 23-year-old was given the armband for keeps on Saturday after standing in for the injured Jay-Jay Okocha and leading the team to four wins out of four without a single goal conceded.

But he admits his new-found responsibility has come at a price, both in the training ground and even among non-footballing friends.

He said: "They all say I've changed now I'm captain, and whenever I do anything wrong I get even more stick. It is worse with people at home. "Every time I ring them it is always, 'All right, skipper'. I'm starting to feel like Captain Birdseye.

"At least the lads haven't done anything to 'celebrate' my appointment. If they had cut my clothes up there would have been murder – I'd have got them all fined."

The decision by Sam Allardyce was a difficult one and was only

by **GEORGE SCOTT**
in Guimaraes

arrived at after talks with Okocha himself. The Bolton manager scoffs at reports that losing the captaincy will hurry the Nigerian out of the Reebok Stadium when the transfer window opens.

And Nolan has been impressed at the good grace with which he has accepted the demotion.

Grace

He said: "Jay-Jay has been fantastic. He was the first one to come over and congratulate me.

"Every since he took over as captain he has been fantastic and he has been a true gentleman over the decision and I cannot speak highly enough of him.

"I know this season there are going to be times when I am going to need the likes of Jay-Jay maybe to put an arm round my shoulder when things aren't going so well."

Ahead of tonight's UEFA Cup tie with Portuguese side Guimaraes, and with Bolton undefeated in

Europe in their debut season, he hopes the good times might come sooner rather than later.

Nolan said: "We have surprised everybody with how well we have adapted to Europe and we have surprised ourselves too.

"But we are an ambitious club and we think that whatever competition we are in we have a good chance of winning it.

"I had the experience of getting to the League Cup final a couple of years ago and nothing would be more fantastic than lifting a trophy with Bolton.

"We can do that this season, but the next six weeks could make or break the season."

TEAMS

BOLTON (4-3-3): Walker; O'Brien, Ben Haim, N'Gotty, Gardner; Faye, Okocha, Speed; Stelios, Nolan, Borgetti.

VITORIA (4-4-2): Freitas; Mario Sergio, Dragoner, Moreno, Cleber; Svard, Neca, Flavio, Benachour; Saganowski, Dario.

Ref: L Duhamel (France).
TV: (C5, 7.45pm, KO 8pm)



GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	2	1	0	0	2	1	4
Sevilla	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Zenit	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Besiktas	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Guimaraes	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

TO PLAY: Tonight: Zenit v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Bolton, Thurs, Dec 1; Besiktas v Zenit, Sevilla v Guimaraes, Weds, Dec 14; Bolton v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Besiktas.

Sidwell: We're in top gear

by **SCOTT COLEMAN**

STEVE SIDWELL is confident he and his Reading team-mates will be playing in the Premiership next season – but boss Steve Coppell is keeping their feet firmly on the ground.

After the Royals whipped Ipswich 3-0 to go top of the Championship, Sidwell said: "The boys are on fire at the moment.

"We are going into every game feeling as if we're unbeatable. We are absolutely flying and everyone is so confident.

Credit

"To have gone 22 games unbeaten is incredible."

But boss Coppell is keen that, despite the long unbeaten run, he doesn't want October and November to become the highlights of their season.

"Great credit should go to the gaffer for what we've achieved," added Sidwell. "Steve keeps our feet firmly on the ground.

"He doesn't say a lot during the week and then you really find out his qualities on a match day. He prepares so well for every game and he gives a little speech before you go out.

"I'm telling you, it's like something out of Braveheart. You feel like you're going to war."

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SPOT ON: Robert Pires scores the winner

Pires: I'm Gunner be staying on

PENALTY hero Robert Pires yesterday confirmed he will see out his contract at Arsenal as he predicted the Gunners could at last be on the brink of European glory. Pires was the match winner in Switzerland on Tuesday when he came off the bench to replace Thierry Henry and calmly converted an 88th-minute penalty for the only goal of the game against FC Thun.

His winner ensured Arsenal maintained their 100 per cent record in the Champions League this season – a competition in which Arsene Wenger's side have never been past the last eight – and clinched top spot in Group B.

Boss Wenger hailed Pires for taking the spot-kick, having famously cocked up when he attempted a trick one with Henry against Manchester City a month ago.

Last night the Frenchman – who has been linked with Galatasaray, Valencia and Juventus in the past six months – insisted he was determined to see out his sixth season in Europe with the Gunners.

Feeling

With his contract up in the summer and no immediate signs of a new one, it had been thought the 32-year-old could be tempted by a new offer from elsewhere when the transfer window opens in January.

Pires is likely to receive just a one-year offer from the Gunners but will hold out for two.

He said: "I am here for the season, no question."

"Yes, I will be talking to the club in January but the only thing I am thinking of is winning something with Arsenal this season."

"I have had this feeling since the start of the season that we could do something special in the Champions League."

"Now we've finished top of the group, we have a better chance of progressing with the combination of youth and experience we have in the team. I'll not be leaving before the end of

■ by DAVID WOODS

this season and I very much want to stay. I'm going nowhere – that is for certain.

"And I hope I am at Arsenal next season. That is very much what I want."

Pires – who confirmed earlier this month that only the intervention of boss Wenger stopped him from joining Juventus with Patrick Vieira in the summer – said he had no qualms about taking the penalty in Bern.

He added: "Did I think back to what happened against Manchester City? No, not at all."

"I know it was the first time that I took a penalty since then but I wasn't nervous about it."

"I felt very confident because I knew it was an important one and was likely to give us a win."

■ DENNIS BERKAMP is hoping his testimonial game will be one of the first fixtures at Arsenal's new Emirates Stadium. The Dutchman is set to retire at the end of the current season.

SERIOUSLY football

Benfica crunch beckons for

ED: WE'RE

■ by BILL THORNTON

EDWIN VAN DER SAR last night admitted Manchester United are lucky to still have a chance of staying in the Champions League.

"I think we have got away with it a little bit," the United keeper insisted as fans came to terms with the awful possibility that their heroes could fall at the first hurdle.

United's goalless draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal leaves them with only one win from five in Group D – and the outcome of the group in the melting pot.

Van der Sar, veteran of two European Cup Finals with Ajax in the 1990s, didn't duck the unpalatable truth when he said: "We are still in with a chance only because of the other results."

Fortunately for manager Sir Alex Ferguson, United's tactlustrous efforts have been matched by the other teams in the group, all three of whom have also won only once.

Benfica are the top-scoring side with three goals – and they are bottom with five points, one less than the Reds who are in third place.

But if the Portuguese team beat United in Lisbon on December 7, United won't even make the UEFA Cup.

Glory

It is all a big let-down for Ferguson, the fans, United's new owners the Glazers – and for Van der Sar, the 35-year-old stopper who signed from Fulham seeking more glory in Europe.

"I am really enjoying playing in the Champions League again," said the multi-capped Holland star. So, I would really like to keep going into the next phase.

"It would be very difficult and disappointing for me if we don't go through."

The same can be said for everyone at United, not least Malcolm Glazer, who would kiss goodbye to a potential extra £15m if the team is beaten in Benfica next month.

Yet, such is the delicacy of the situation that victory in the Stadium of Light in Lisbon would guarantee progress and a crack at that jackpot.

And the United players are still backing boss Fergie to see them through.

Destiny

Wayne Rooney, whose form on Wednesday was one of the few bright spots, insisted yesterday: "Sir Alex has been around in the game for years and in my eyes he's probably the best manager of all time."

Rio Ferdinand added: "We would rather be in this position where we know what we have to do rather than have to wait for the other result."

"We have to rely on our own resolve and make sure we get through to the next phase."

"Our destiny is in our own hands and we have the capability of doing the job."

"We have to make sure we

Phone giants hang up

From Back Page

United. The club's commercial director Andy Anson was last night insisting that he will clinch another major shirt deal.

Vodafone end their agreement next summer, two years early, and will become one of the main sponsors of the Champions League.

Their decision strengthens the theory that United, who have conceded pre-eminence in the Premiership to Chelsea, can no longer count on their name alone guaranteeing them the best sponsorships.

Anson was having none of that as he said: "The Manchester United shirt is the most iconic in sport."

"The club feels there is a genuine chance to attract significant additional investment. We are confident of securing a new deal in the coming months."

Record

But Bones doesn't think United will find the big hitters of the branding world queuing up, as they once did, to back the Reds.

Chelsea recently secured a British record £50m, five-year shirt deal with Samsung and Real Madrid – David Beckham and all – will enter a world record, £16m-a-year agreement with Taiwanese mobile phone company BenQMobile next summer.

Bones said: "No financial expert can see how the huge debt Glazer has put on United can be paid back, so what large sponsor would want to back the club while he is there?"

"As far as we are concerned, the sooner the Glazers go, the better."

United say they have been aware for some months of Vodafone's decision and have planned accordingly.

Clearly, the team's continued involvement in the Champions League is crucial to their business plan.



OH BROTHER: Avi, Brian and Joel Glazer look on as United can only draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal

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SO LUCKY TO STILL BE IN IT

by STEVE BRENNER

The Tottenham striker was subjected to taunts of "your mum's a terrorist" and "shoe bomber" – a reference to lookalike Richard Reid who was jailed for trying to blow up a passenger jet in 2001.

He said: "It is never nice and I do not approve of it at all."

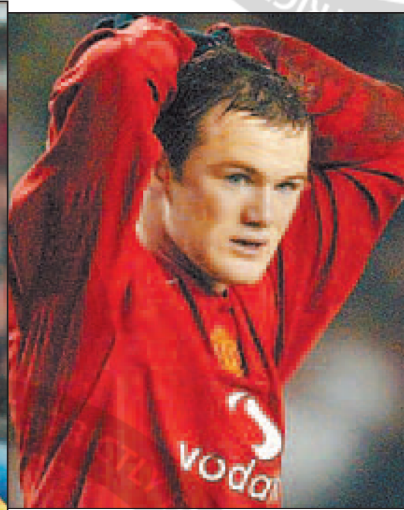
Image

"We are also in the middle of a multi-racial community. We want to portray ourselves as a good young team with good fans."

"Our fans are brilliant. So those little things – done by the few – are not nice."

"I apologise but these situations are difficult as it happens at most games.

"I was at Charlton against Manchester United and some unsavoury things were said. But that does not mean to say we should accept it."



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Villarreal.....	5	1	4	0	2	1	7
Lille.....	5	1	3	1	1	1	6
Man Utd.....	5	1	3	1	2	2	6
Benfica.....	5	1	2	2	3	4	5

TO PLAY – Weds, Dec 7: Benfica v Man United, Villarreal v Lille

man United, Villarreal v Lille.

do the job. I think there is a lot more to come from this team – but we've got to do it now.

"We want to take our form from the league and carry it into the Champions League and hopefully get through."

"You have to deal with every situation that is thrown at you in European football. It will be a hard game in Benfica – they gave us a hard game here."

United's lamentable scoring record has been crippling their progress, in Europe, for two seasons.

Ferdinand admitted: "I'd be an Einstein if I knew why we haven't won these games in the Champions League."

Champions League.
 "But we wouldn't swap Wayne Rooney and Ruud van Nistelrooy for anybody else."

"Wayne can do almost anything he wants and Ruud is just a natural-born goalscorer. It's a case of getting the rub of the green."

United have scored only two goals in the group phase, both in the win over Benfica at Old Trafford.

Van der Sar added: "We'd like to score more, especially at home, but we aren't managing to do it and that is very disappointing."

UNITED'S trail of European travel sickness makes worrying reading. **Last away win:** November 2003, Panathinaikos 1-0. **And since then:** Feb 2004: Porto 1-2 Sept 2004: Lyon 2-2. Oct 2004: S Prague 0-0. Dec 2004: Fenerbahce 0-3. March 2005: AC Milan 0-1. Sept 2005: Villarreal 0-0. November 2005: Lille 0-1

But history is on their side. Next month's Lisbon clash will be only the fifth time they have played Benfica in the competition, but two of those games rank alongside some of the club's greatest in Europe. They are:

GARY NEVILLE lasted 75 minutes of his second game in two days when he played for United's reserves last night. He stepped up his bid for a first-team slot at West Ham on Sunday by starting against Manchester City's second string after previously coming on as sub against Villarreal at Old Trafford the night before. United won the game 4-2 thanks to a hat-trick from promising striker Guiseppe Rossi.

MARCH 1966: Benfica 1, Manchester United 5
GEORGE BEST, the 19-year-old from Belfast, stamped his name indelibly upon the history of the

bly upon the history of the club with a spellbinding display in the Stadium of Light in front of 80,000 disbelieving fans.

Best scored in the sixth and 12th minutes, then set up John Connelly for the third to leave the pride of Lisbon's European Cup quarter-final hopes in

At that point, Benfica

had won 18 and drawn one of their 19 home matches in Europe. United had won the first leg 3-2, but lost to eventual runners-up Partizan Belgrade in the semis.

MAY 1968, EUROPEAN CUP FINAL: Benfica 1, Manchester United 4

Manchester United 4. ALL the drama was in extra time, after Bobby Charlton opened the scoring in the 53rd minute with a header – and Benfica grabbed an equaliser nine

Alex Stepney made a tremendous save to deny the legendary Eusebio a winner and take the match to the extra 30 minutes.

United didn't need long to stun the Eagles for a second time in two years. George Best struck after three minutes, followed by Brian Kidd and Charlton, all in the first period.

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SOUTHAMPTON captain Nigel Quashie can not play until Boxing Day after being handed a three-match ban for being sent-off in Tuesday's draw at Hull.

BIRMINGHAM youngster Sam Oji has joined Doncaster on a six-week loan deal.

STOKE will offer John Halls in a straight swap for West Ham winger Luke Chadwick in the January transfer window.

BLACKBURN boss Mark Hughes has allowed striker Jamal Johnson to extend his loan at Preston for a second month.

OXFORD striker Danny Morgan has joined Basingstoke Town on a month's loan.

MANCHESTER United defender Paul McShane has had to cut short his loan at Brighton after being ruled out for three months with an ankle ligaments injury.

JOHN Hollins, the former Chelsea and Swansea boss, has been named manager of Crawley Town.

BURY have given a trial to Burscough FA Cup hero Liam Blakeman.

IPSWICH striker Sam Parkin is out for four months after breaking his ankle in the defeat by Reading on Tuesday.

QPR winger Aaron Brown has been rejected by Barnsley after a trial.

FORMER Scotland international Don Hutchison has left Millwall by mutual consent just three months after signing for them.

LUTON have lodged a complaint to the Trinidad and Tobago FA after Carlos Edwards returned late from international duty.

NEIL Warnock has told loan signing Vincent Pericard to decide if he wants to stay at Sheffield United. The Portsmouth hitman's deal runs out next month.

SERIOUSLY football

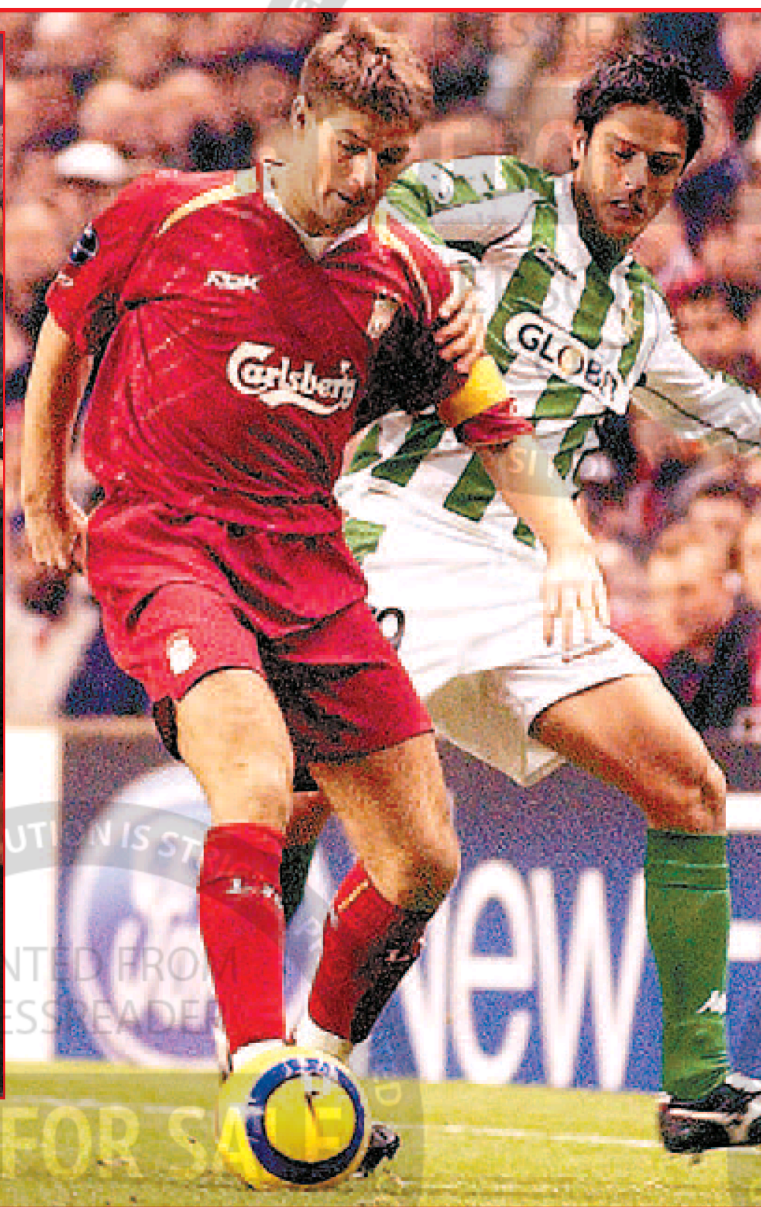


CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Liverpool goal



TALL ORDER: Liverpool's Peter Crouch meets female assistant referee Nelly Viennott and Steven Gerrard (right) tries to get the better of Oscar Lopez

Pics: JOHN DAWES



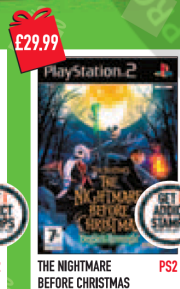
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flop out of luck but Reds go through

BLUE PETER STILL BLANK

IT may have been a goalless draw but European Cup holders Liverpool are through to the knockout stages of the Champions League.

They now travel to Stamford Bridge on December 6 for a Group G showdown with Jose Mourinho's Chelsea all-stars – and they need only a point to claim top spot.

Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard should have put the game beyond doubt in the 89th minute when he was through one-on-one with Betis keeper Antonio Doblas – but the stopper got a hand to his shot to keep his side on level terms.

It might have been a bitterly cold night on Merseyside but Peter Crouch did his best to warm the fans and end his nightmare goal drought.

By the time he trudged off in the 83rd minute he had run himself into the ground for the Kop's cause – and still not managed to find the net despite having TEN chances to score.

Frantic

Crouch went tantalisingly close four times in a frantic three-minute spell midway through the first half.

The giant £7m marksman first of all showed a fine touch by subverting around and changing the ball from his left foot to his right before firing in a shot which was taken on the line by Doblas in the 24th minute.

Then skipper Steven Gerrard put him through but Crouch just couldn't get enough pace on his shot and the ball was cleared for a corner.

Gerrard then sent over the flag kick from which Crouch directed a powerful downward header just wide, with keeper Doblas caught completely out of position.

The crowd, and Crouch's team-mates, were clearly willing him on to end that barren spell in front of goal and he almost did it just a few seconds later.

Once again it was that man Gerrard who lobbed the ball over from the right wing to find the England international, who once again headed just inches wide.

It was the kind of run-untill-you-drop performance the Anfield crowd had been longing to see from the sometimes awkward-looking Crouch. And he certainly got plenty of vocal backing



by KEVIN FRANCIS
Liverpool...0 Real Betis...0

from them. It was all a far cry from some of the crowd reactions he's had this season.

Most noticeably the way he was booed while warming-up to come on as substitute for England earlier this season.

Those four quick-fire goal attempts certainly lived up to the crowd on a freezing night.

And Crouch's encouraging workrate was certainly a cause for terrace optimism against the livewire visitors. And by

jove were they quick! Betis really did cause Liverpool plenty of problems with their nippy moves upfield causing plenty of fitters in the Liverpool rearguard.

Burst

Xisco was troublesome and frequently managed to burst through alone, his speed causing John Arne Riise a few problems at the back.

Then Joaquin burst through and nutmegged Riise only to have the ball

run away from him as he lined himself up for an effort at goal just before half-time.

Betis are second bottom in La Liga but Liverpool's Spanish boss Rafa Benitez had warned before the game that they were in something of a false position.

They play certainly backed up his words and it was only because Liverpool were at something approaching the top of their game that they were able to keep control of the match for long periods.

And in Gerrard they had someone who was once again in outstanding form, spraying the ball around with the kind of inch-perfect passing that

is such a trademark of his game.

Yet, typical of this captain marvel, he also rolled his sleeves up and took his turn at scoring opportunities whenever they arose.

One particular right-foot effort in the 37th minute looked to be a certain goal until Doblas managed to get in the way and divert the danger.

Doblas was one of the busiest men on the pitch, keeping an eye on Crouch while doing his best to stifle Fernando Morientes.

He blocked one fine first-half Morientes effort and then flung himself at the striker's feet to deny him at the start of the second period as well.

But he saved the best for last, denying Istanbul hero Gerrard with a minute remaining when a goal seemed a certainty.

TEAMS

LIVERPOOL: Reina, Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Risse, Gerrard, Hamann, Sissoko, Zenden, Crouch, Morientes. Subs: Dudek, Kewell, Cisse, Josemi, Traore, Warnock, Potter.
REAL BETIS: Doblas, Meli, Juanito, Rivas, Oscar Lopez, Joaquin, Assuncao, Rivera, Arzu, Xisco, Fernando. Subs: Contreras, Canas, Capl, Castellini, Edu, Juanlu, Israel. Ref: Eric Poulart (France).



LONG SHOT: Peter Crouch tries to get past Alberto Rivera

Information Station

FOOTBALL

UEFA Champions League	
Group E	
Fenerbahce (0)	AC Milan (1) 4
Schalke 04 (1)	PSV (0) 0
Koblenz 18 pen, 73, 79 pen	Alt: 30,000

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	2	2	1	14	8	8
Schalke 04	2	2	1	10	6	8
PSV	5	2	1	2	6	7
Fenerbahce	5	1	1	3	12	4

Group F	
Real Madrid (1)	Lyon (0) 1
Helstad 88	Alt: 59,000

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	5	3	1	19	6	10
Rosenborg	5	1	1	3	5	4
Olympiakos	5	1	4	5	12	1

Group G	
Anderlecht (0)	Chelsea (2) 2
At: 21,070	Alt: 42,077

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chelsea	5	3	1	7	10	11
Real Betis	5	2	1	3	6	7
Anderlecht	5	0	0	8	0	0

Group H	
Porto (0)	Rangers (0) 1
At: 60	Alt: 48,000

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group I	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group J	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group K	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group L	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group M	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group N	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group O	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group P	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group Q	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group R	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group S	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

Group T	
Inter Milan (2)	A Bratislava (0) 0
Figo 28	Alt: 59,74

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	5	4	0	18	3	12
Rangers	5	1	3	1	6	6
A Bratislava	5	1	2	5	9	5
Porto	5	1	3	8	9	4

WIN Top tickets to Man City v Liverpool

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6/4 Guimaraes 9/4 Draw Bolton 11/8
UEFA Cup, tonight, kick-off 8.00pm, live on Channel 5

correct score	first goalscorer
Guimaraes 0-0 Bolton 5/1	K. Davies (B)
1/2 1-0 11/2	7/1 E.H. Diouf (B)
5/1 1-1 5/1	7/1 J. Borgetti (B)
10/1 2-0 9/1	6/1 K. Nalan (B)
14/1 2-2 14/1	16/1 Stelios (B)
20/1 3-0 25/1	14/1 J. Okocha (B)
20/1 3-1 20/1	14/1 H. Nakata (B)
	16/1 G. Speed (B)

Others available on request

11/10 AZ Alkmaar 11/5 Draw Middlesbrough 2/1
UEFA Cup, today, kick-off 5.30pm, live on ITV4

correct score	first goalscorer
AZ Alkmaar 0-0 Middlesbrough 6/1	Yakubu (M)
5/1 1-0 12/2	6/1 M. Viduka (M)
5/1 1-1 5/1	6/1 J.P. Hasselbaink (M)
8/1 2-0 12/1	7/1 M. Macaroni (M)
9/1 2-1 10/1	12/1 G. Mendota (M)
14/1 2-2 14/1	16/1 J. Morrison (M)
18/1 3-0 40/1	20/1 F. Quevedo (M)
18/1 3-1 25/1	25/1 D. Doriva (M)

Others available on request

Tonight's other UEFA Cup matches available on request. All prices subject to fluctuations.

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Crespo repays his

Chelsea back in groove

IT was below freezing here in Brussels – but it's the rest of Europe who should be shivering. Just who will be too hot for Chelsea this season?

Manchester United have bigger problems of their own, and now they need a new sponsor as well as a fresh direction. Arsenal will come hard, but do they have the depth?

We will probably have to wait for Barcelona and Ronaldinho to give Jose Mourinho and his men their ultimate test. Barca versus the Blues, now that would be a tasty Champions League Final.

What we discovered here was that Chelsea have repaired any early-season rough edges and look in the mood again.

Intrigue

Mourinho, of course, never had any doubts but there were questions to answer after defeats at Old Trafford in the league and Real Betis in Europe. A Carling Cup exit in the middle only added to the intrigue.

Victory over Newcastle on Saturday followed by this stroll means normal service has been resumed. We didn't really think anything else, did we?

Chelsea's well-oiled machine is running smoothly again. And it is going to take something or someone special to stop them winning a really big prize.

Anticipating that moment will be like waiting for the lottery numbers on a Saturday night, nope, not this week.

Liverpool will believe they can retain their trophy – but would anyone bet on them beating Chelsea over two legs



WOOLY'S VERDICT

again? Chelsea have so many players of quality, and here is a good time to praise the rebuilding of Joe Cole.

Cole was so unhappy at being left out by England against Argentina recently that he let coach Sven Goran Eriksson know his feelings before kick-off in Geneva.

Such is Cole's new-found confidence that his reaction when he finally came on, making the winning goal for Michael Owen, proved his point.

He believes he has never played better in his career.

He has lost his inconsistent tag and learned so much from Mourinho. Last night Cole couldn't help but express himself in a Chelsea performance that was as comfortable as it gets in Europe.

Cole is now close to being first choice with club and country, and it is credit to him that he has come so far so quickly.

Today he is a team player, rather than a circus act with no end product.

His dedication should be a lesson to any player who believes there is nothing to learn once they hit the heady heights of Championship medals and England caps.

Once Chelsea had scored twice in the opening 15 minutes, through Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho, it was not difficult for any of their players to enjoy themselves. Anderlecht, short of class, courage and confidence, were no opponents for a side slipping back into form.

No goals, no points and no hope for Anderlecht before the game. They began with nothing and ended with nothing.

Electric

It is also significant that Chelsea have recovered with Eldur Gudjohnsen in the team. He remains one of the unsung heroes of the Premiership, a player no-one on the outside can understand why he isn't chosen for every match.

The Icelandic star oozes class and makes up for that lack of electric pace with a brain so much quicker than most.

Think Peter Beardsley and Teddy Sheringham and you have a picture of Gudjohnsen, the 'Thinking Man's Footballer'.

He does things without fuss and is going to be vital if Chelsea reach their target of a Premiership and Champions League double.

Better opponents than this are waiting for them deeper into the season. Barcelona, Madrid, Lyon, Milan – but Chelsea proved here in Brussels that their swagger is back.

The swagger from boss and team that annoys so many, but wins so much.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH



BLUE BLITZ!
Chelsea take an early two-goal lead against Anderlecht with superb finishes from Hernan Crespo (top) and Ricardo Carvalho



FIRST CLASS: Crespo celebrates the opener



boss's faith as Blues get bullish in Belgium

JOSE SHOWS HIS MUSCLES IN BRUSSELS

JOSE Mourinho has proved he is a man worth listening to.

And his team did just that as they came out of the traps in Brussels to get the win that meant qualification for the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Chelsea blew Anderlecht away with two quick-fire goals.

Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho both scored inside the first 15 minutes to virtually settle this tie.

Mourinho had warned his side that they were becoming too cocky and taking results for granted after a slight wobble.

Their blistering start to the season had been knocked off track by defeats to Real Betis in the Champions League and Manchester United in the Premiership.

The Chelsea boss feared his side were becoming complacent because everything was coming too easy to them.

But on the back of their 3-0 demolition of Newcastle at the weekend, they showed last night they had heeded their fiery manager's words.

Mourinho said he wanted his side to start strongly and not give Anderlecht a look-in, and they did just that.

Perfect

But not before a scare of their own as Mbo Mpenza was just inches away from gliding.

Christian Wilhelmsson's cross past a stranded Petr Cech.

But straight from the goal-kick Frank Lampard dispossessed Anthony Vanden Borre on the left wing.

His cross was inch perfect for Crespo, who from six yards out eased the ball expertly past Anderlecht goalkeeper Silvio Proto.

It was Chelsea's first goal away from home this season in Europe.

Crespo's inclusion had been a surprise considering most people expected him to be left out for Didier Drogba.

The Ivory Coast striker was suspended at the weekend, which gave the Argentinian his chance in the side, and he took it with a goal against the Toon.

But Crespo has played second fiddle this year to Drogba, and dangerously fell out with Mourinho after Eidur Gudjohnsen was started before him against Betis when the African hitman was injured.



By DANNY FULLBROOK
Anderlecht.....0
Chelsea.....2

Speculation has been rife that Crespo will be off-loaded in January, so this was a huge vote of confidence from the Portuguese boss.

And his decision reaped further dividends when Crespo helped set up Chelsea's second.

He flicked on a corner from Lampard into the path of Carvalho.

And the central defender volleyed the ball into the top right-hand corner for his second goal of his side's European campaign.

Chelsea's Champions League campaign had not exactly gone to plan this season.

A draw against Liverpool and defeat by Real Betis meant the Premiership champions might have needed to win

both of their last two games to guarantee qualification for the knock-out stages.

Mourinho had insisted before kick-off that one win would be enough to take Chelsea through Group G and he was right.

Considering Anderlecht have set a new Champions League record of losing 11 games on the bounce, Chelsea did not exactly have much to fear from their opponents.

All that Frank Vercauteren's side could salvage from their campaign was the possibility of finishing third in the group, and therefore a place in the UEFA Cup.

But the Belgian side had also suffered their own Roy Keane-style mutiny with dressing room unrest

and were in a state of disarray. And they proved that with the way they defended in the first 30 minutes.

There was still a worry for Chelsea though because despite reaching the semi-finals last year, for the second consecutive season, they had not won away from home in Europe for over a year.

Their last victory was in Russia against CSKA Moscow on November 2, 2004, and since then they had lost five and drawn one on their travels.

Gutted

Mourinho claimed there were a number of different reasons to excuse this poor run, but the bottom line is they have struggled away from Stamford Bridge.

Roman Abramovich has made it clear to his manager that Europe is his prime concern this season as he has been gutted by the way Chelsea lost out in the last two seasons.

But Mourinho had to go into the game last night

without his key defensive midfielder Claude Makelele.

The Frenchman injured his knee at the weekend, and last night was replaced by Michael Essien.

This meant Gudjohnsen started on the ground he visited over seven years to watch his father play when he was with Anderlecht.

But after their opening burst none of this really mattered.

The game was completely one-sided and Duff and Joe Cole nearly combined to score a third just before the break.

The Irishman's shot was

deflected into the path of Cole, and his looping effort was well held by Proto.

At the start of the second-half Duff went close with a low strike from a corner which was won by a galloping run and cross from Carvalho.

Chelsea were on the hunt for more goals as they could see their opponents were starting to wilt under their onslaught on a bitterly cold night.

In the 66th minute Anderlecht finally managed to get a shot on target as Cech was forced to dive low to his right to prevent Serhat Akin's effort from creeping into the net.

TEAMS

ANDERLECHT: Proto, Daschacht, Tihinen, Kompany, Zewlakow, Goor, Vanderhaeghe, Vanden Borre, Akin, Mpenza, Wilhelmsson. Subs: Zitka, Juhasz, Ehret, Zetterberg, lachtchouck, Deman, Mitu.
CHELSEA: Cech, Del Horno, Terry, Ricardo Carvalho, Gallas, Duff, Essien, Lampard, Joe Cole, Crespo, Gudjohnsen. Subs: Cudicini, Carlton Cole, Geremi, Drogba, Diarra, Paulo Ferreira, Huth.
Ref: Stefano Farina (Italy).

Lualua's plea for 'no fear'

by PETER WHITE

PORTSMOUTH striker Lomana LuaLua last night caused a stir by telling manager Alain Perrin to adopt the "no fear" policy of former Fratton Park boss Harry Redknapp.

LuaLua admitted he was not enjoying his football this season and has called on Perrin to switch to a more attacking approach, starting with Saturday's home clash against champions Chelsea.

LuaLua, having just recovered from malaria, admits it is difficult to produce goals with just one man up front, the formation Perrin has plumped for in recent weeks.

Pompey have scored just three goals in seven home matches, since beating Southampton 4-1 in April.

Change

The Congo striker said: "Everyone had smiles on their faces then and we need to get that back."

"I play football because I enjoy it. But I haven't really been enjoying myself this season. To score goals you need support, not just me or one other striker alone."

"We need each other and, I think a different system, like 4-4-2, would be better."

"But it is up to the manager to change the formation. We've got to do what he tells us. I don't want to say anything wrong but Harry Redknapp didn't fear other sides."

Meanwhile, Pompey's Dutch keeper Sander Westerveld fears being left on the bench may hit his World Cup hopes.

Lee's no loaner—O'Leary

DAVID O'LEARY has told Lee Hendrie to forget about leaving Villa Park on loan.

Former England midfielder Hendrie is frustrated at his lack of opportunities this season – but boss O'Leary has made it clear he has to stay and fight for a first-team place.

Hendrie is being kept on the sidelines by the impressive form of on-loan Newcastle youngster James Milner.

O'Leary said: "James has got the shirt at the moment. I know Lee is frustrated and wants to play football but he has to win back his place."

Business

"I would love to pick all the players but I can only pick 11 – and if they are doing the business, then they stay in the side."

Hendrie, 27, has claimed that he would be happy to go out on loan, but O'Leary is not a fan of the move.

"He has never come to me and asked about going on loan, and we don't have the biggest squad," he said.

"He is due a testimonial at the end of the season, and he deserves it."

"That is the only thing we have spoken about in the last few weeks."

see how any large brand would want to sponsor the club while he is there," said Sean Bones, of Shareholders.

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Raf through but Crouch still blank

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